

# **MANAGING DROUGHT**

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**IN THE SOUTHERN PLAINS**

May 10, 2012



# Upcoming Meetings

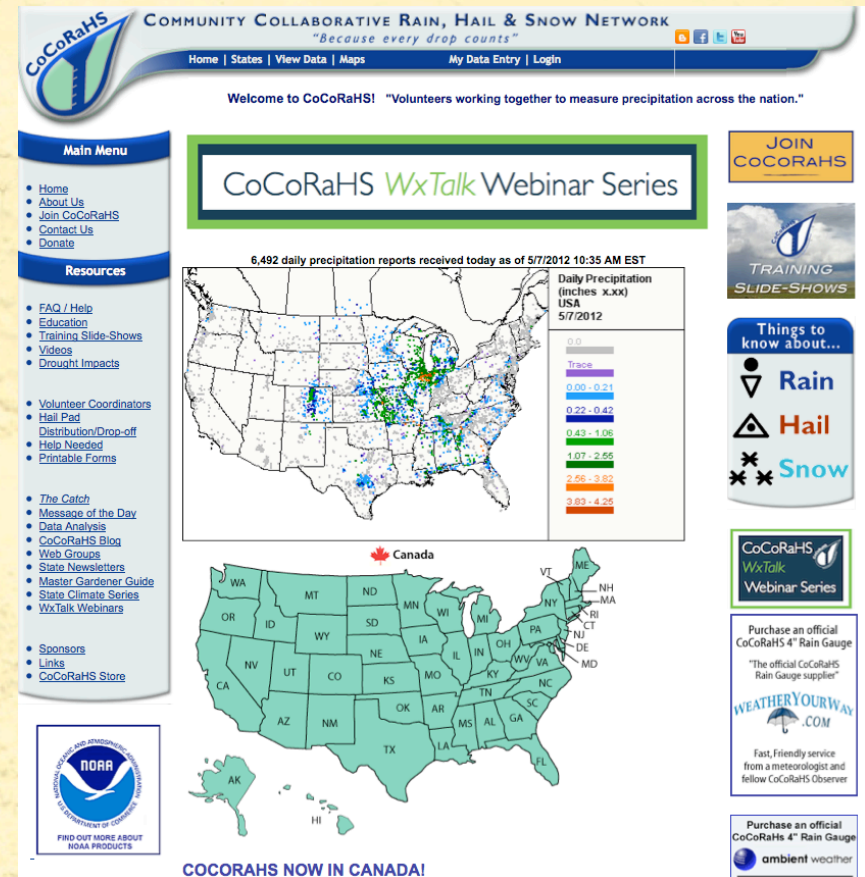
- 2012 Texas Water Summit
  - May 20-21, Austin
  - Goal: bring together scientists, engineers, policy analysts, legislators, CEO's and agency officials to develop a common understanding of the science, technology, economics and policy requirements needed to address Texas' emerging water security challenges.
  - More Information:  
<http://www.tamest.org/events/2012-water-summit.html>
- South Central Climate Science Center Roll-out meetings:
  - Houston/Galveston, June 12
  - More being scheduled
  - More information: <http://southcentralclimate.org>





# CoCoRaHS

- <http://www.cocorahs.org/>
- Daily rainfall, hail & snowfall measurements from more than 12,000 volunteers across the country
- High-resolution, high-quality data for analysis of drought, floods, water supply, forecasting, education, mosquito control...
- All you need is a rain gauge!



Coming Soon: The Hydrologic Cycle: <http://www.youtube.com/cocorahs/>



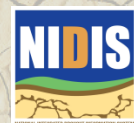
# Regional Drought Monitor Update

Brian Fuchs, Climatologist

National Drought Mitigation Center  
School of Natural Resources  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln



SCIPP/NIDIS Drought Webinar Series, March 22, 2012

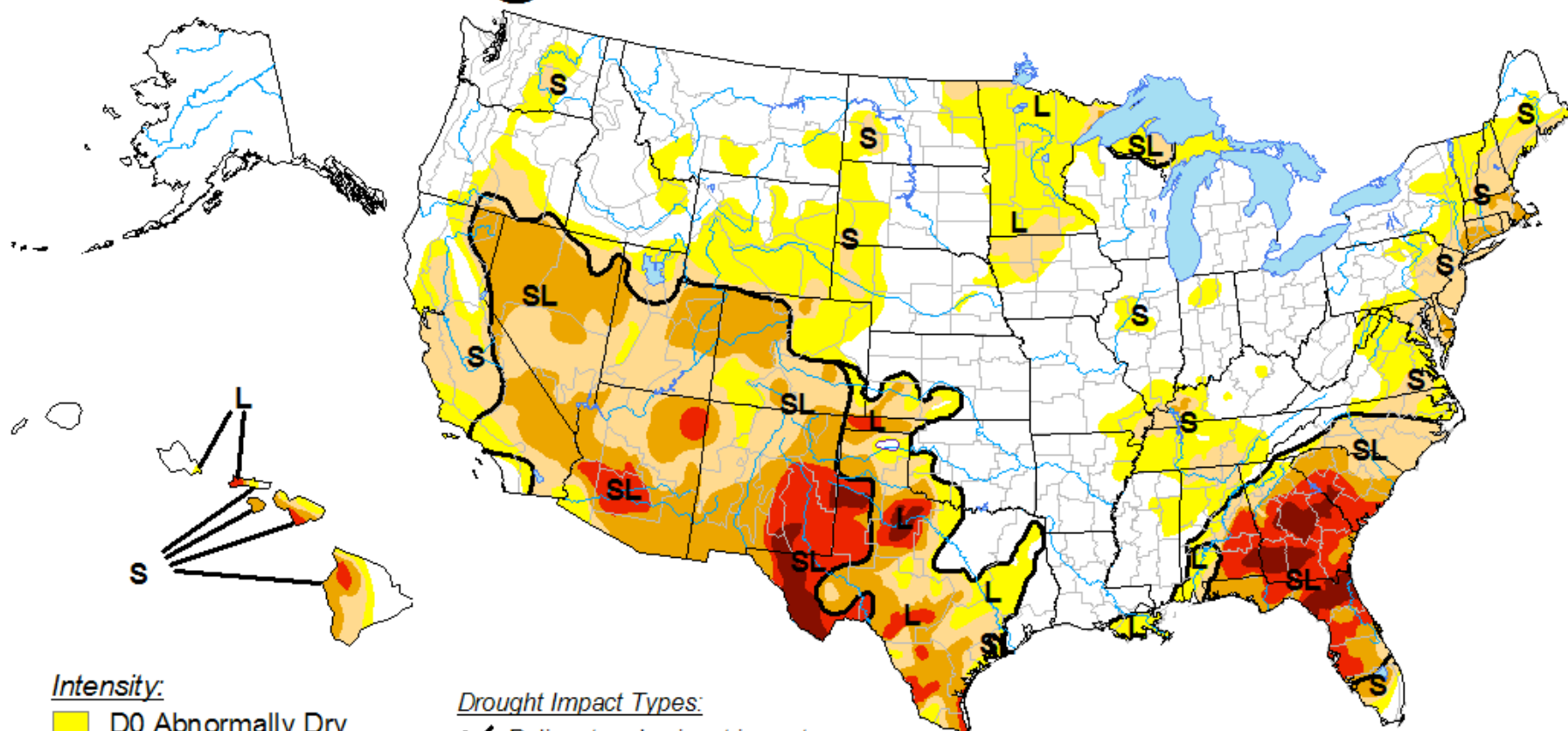




# U.S. Drought Monitor

May 8, 2012

Valid 7 a.m. EDT



## Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

## Drought Impact Types:

- Delineates dominant impacts
- S = Short-Term, typically <6 months  
(e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
- L = Long-Term, typically >6 months  
(e.g. hydrology, ecology)

*The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions.  
Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary  
for forecast statements.*

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>



**Released Thursday, May 10, 2012**

**Author: Matthew Rosencrans, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC**



# U.S. Drought Monitor

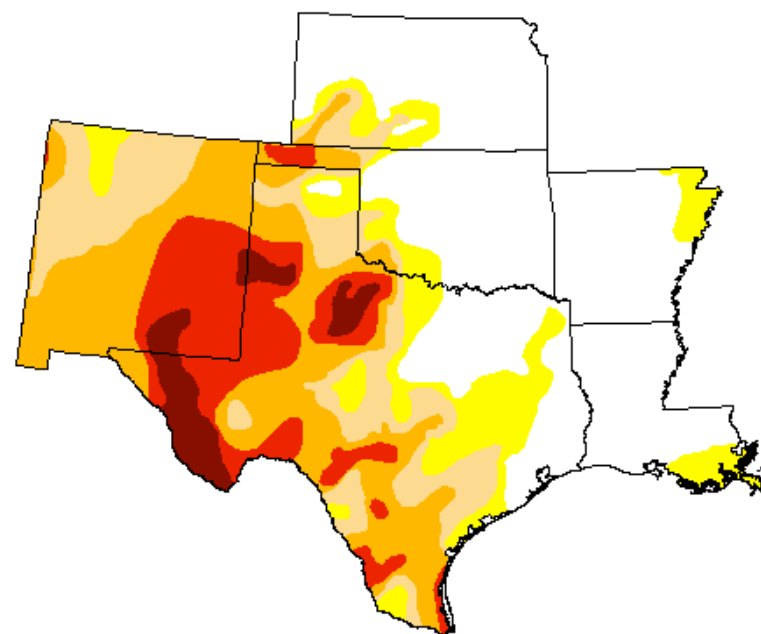
## South Central United States

May 10, 2012

Valid 7 a.m. EST

*Drought Conditions (Percent Area)*

	None	D0 - D4	D1 - D4	D2 - D4	D3 - D4	D4
Current	39.71	60.29	48.49	34.42	15.33	3.72
Last Week (5/1/2012)	39.19	60.81	46.96	35.06	15.80	5.29
3 Months Ago (2/7/2012)	21.93	78.07	70.73	53.64	31.94	11.58
1 Year Ago (5/3/2011)	10.60	89.40	83.35	71.08	49.80	14.68



***Intensity:***



*The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions.  
Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary  
for forecast statements.*

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>

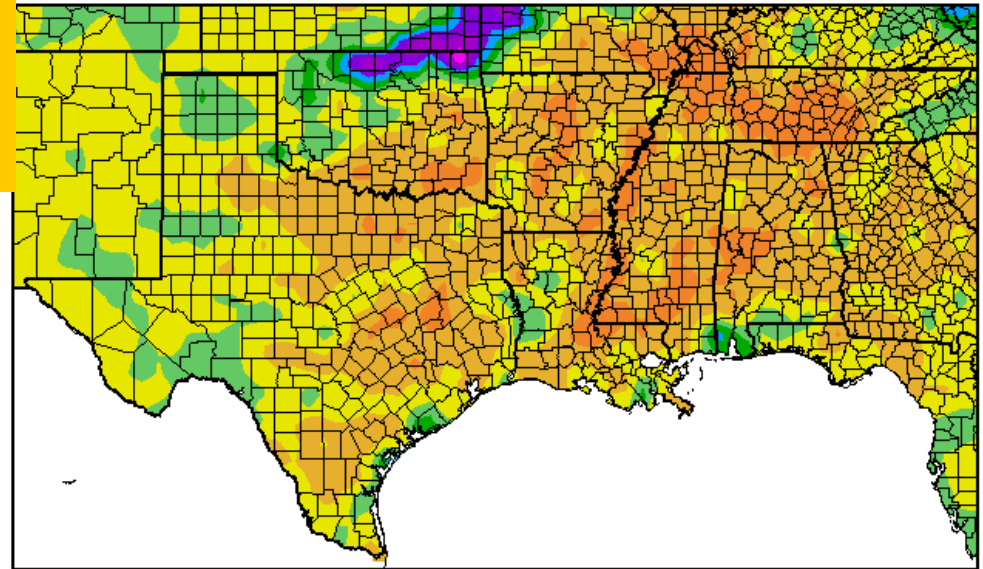


Released Thursday, May 8, 2012  
Matthew Rosencrans, Climate Prediction Center/NCEP/NWS/NOAA



# Departure from Normal Precipitation (in) 4/9/2012 – 5/8/2012

30 Day ACIS  
Departure from  
Normal

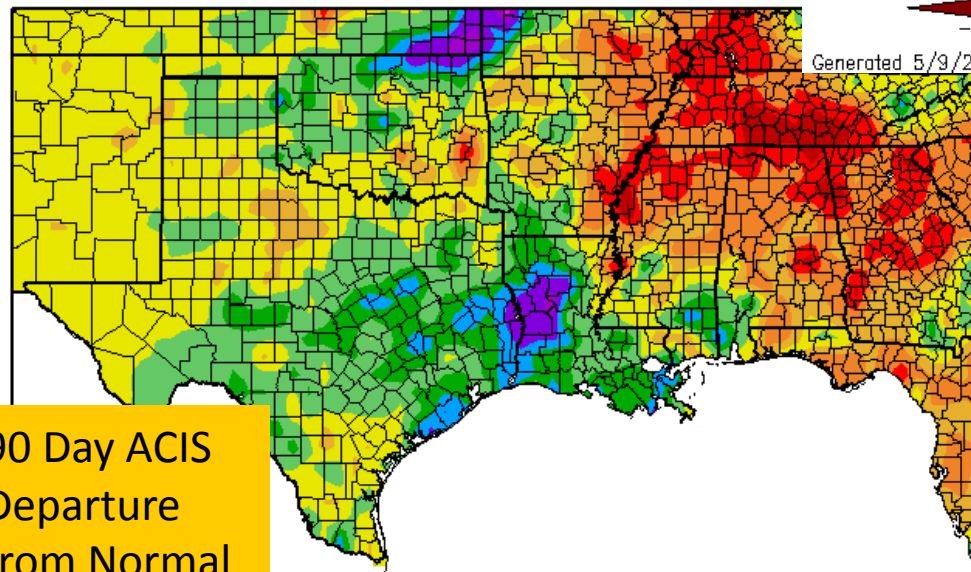


## Departure from Normal Precipitation (in) 2/9/2012 – 5/8/2012



Generated 5/9/2012 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

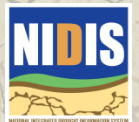


90 Day ACIS  
Departure from  
Normal



Generated 5/9/2012 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

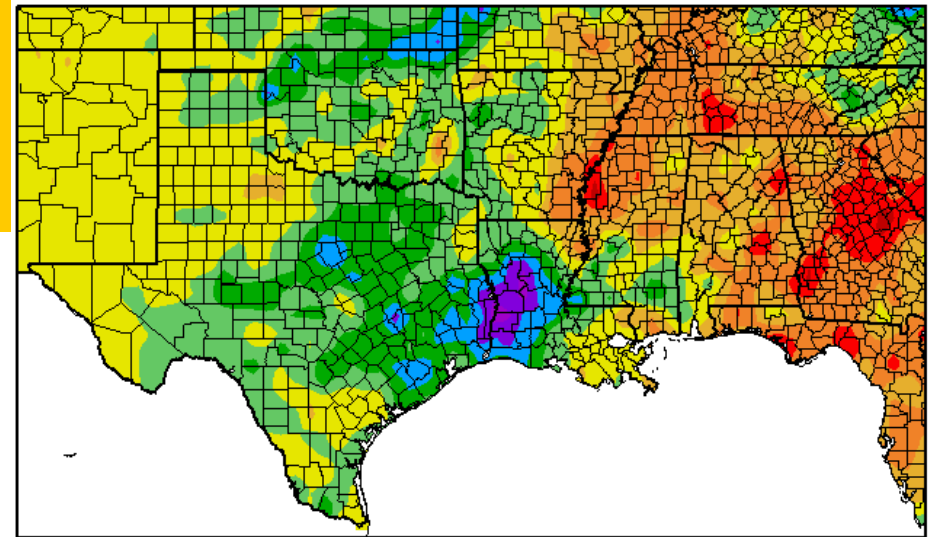


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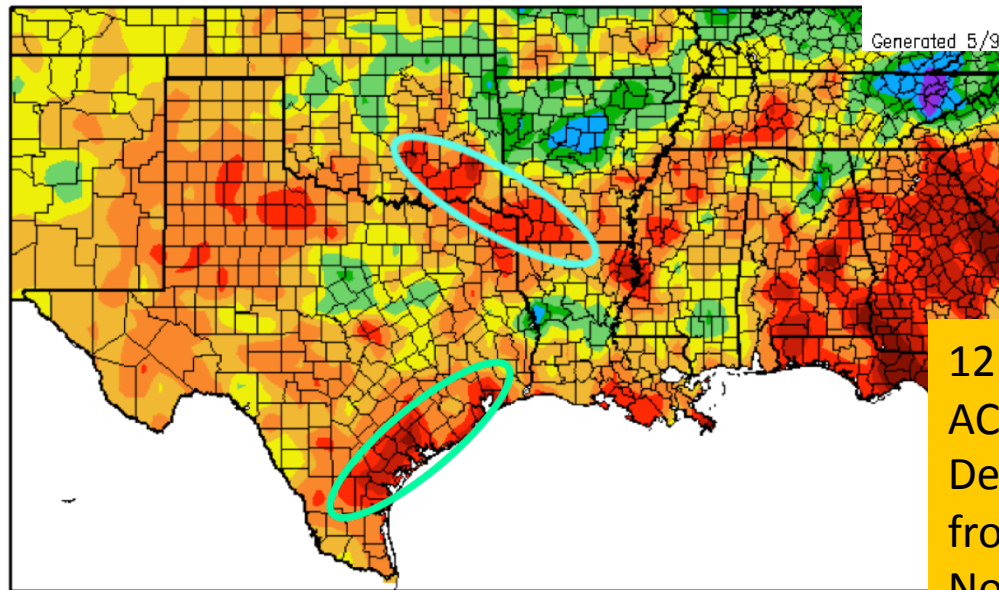


Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)  
1/1/2012 – 5/8/2012

Year to Date  
ACIS Departure  
from Normal



Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)  
5/9/2011 – 5/8/2012



12 Month  
ACIS  
Departure  
from  
Normal



Generated 5/9/2012 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers



Generated 5/9/2012 at HPRCC using provisional data.

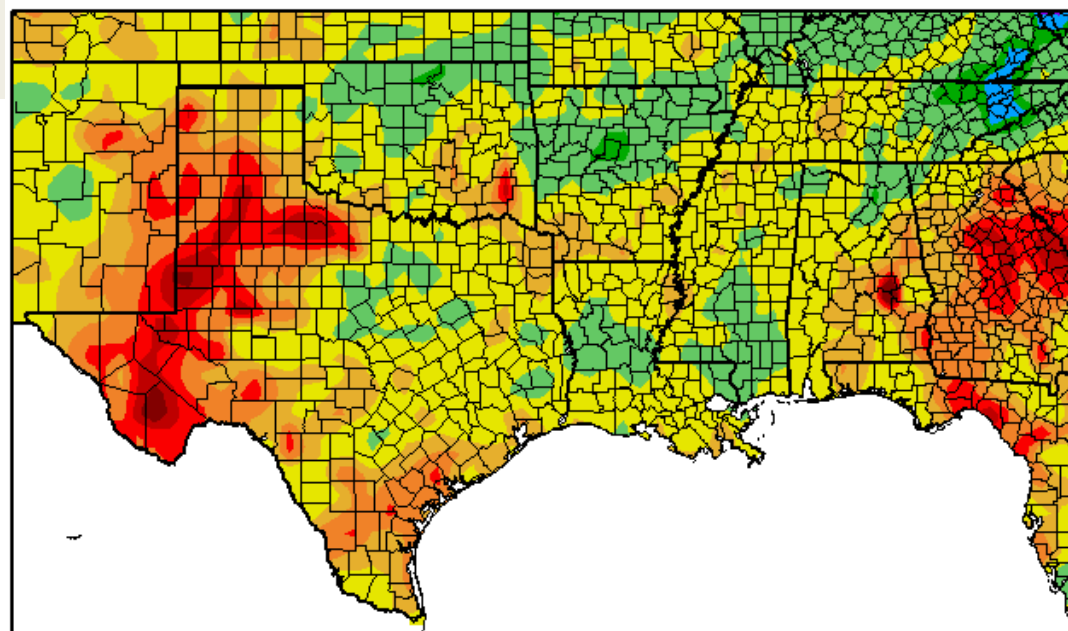
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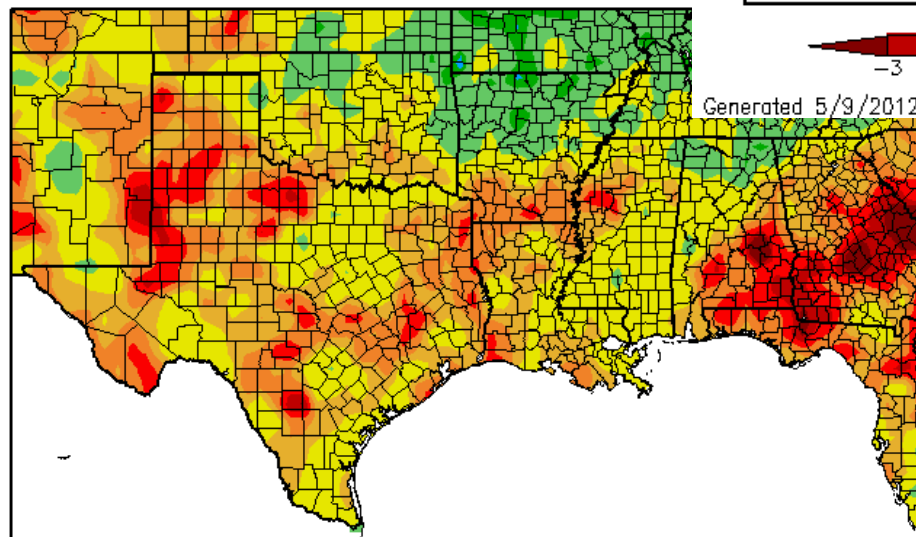


Short-Term improvements  
versus Long-Term drought  
issues.....

12 Month SPI  
5/9/2011 – 5/8/2012



24 Month SPI  
5/9/2010 – 5/8/2012

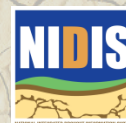


Generated 5/9/2012 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Generated 5/9/2012 at HPRCC using provisional data.

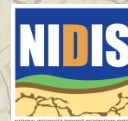
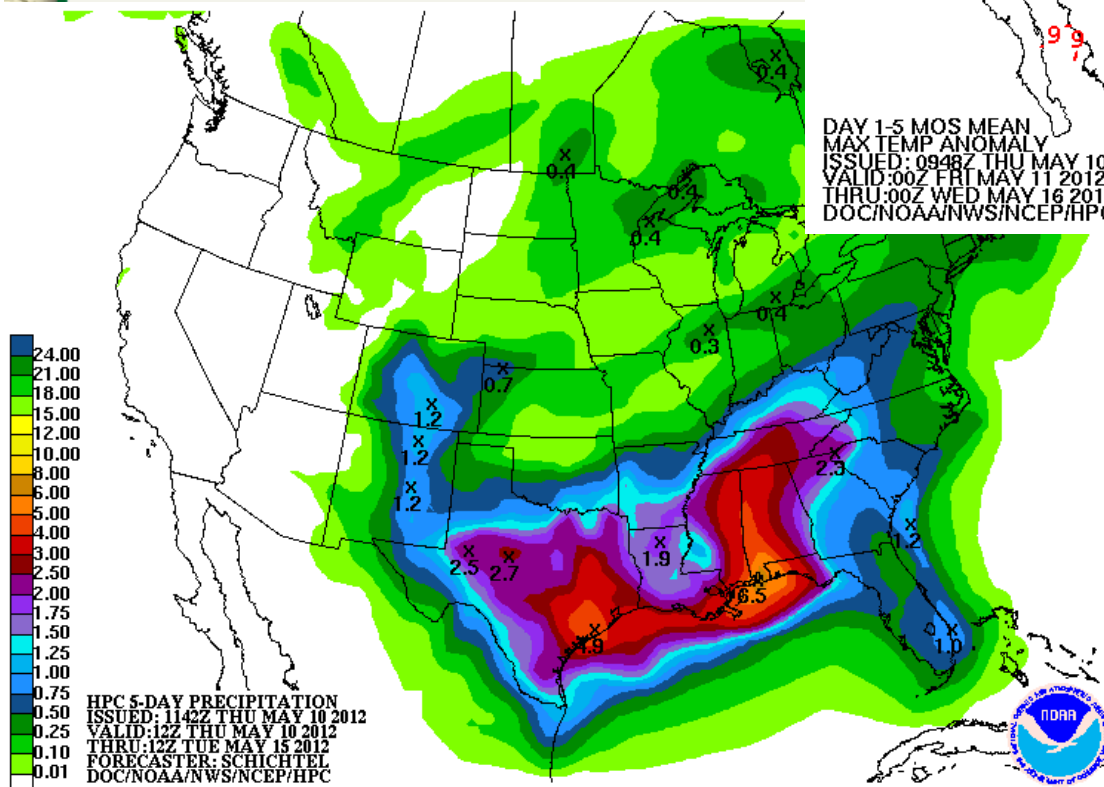
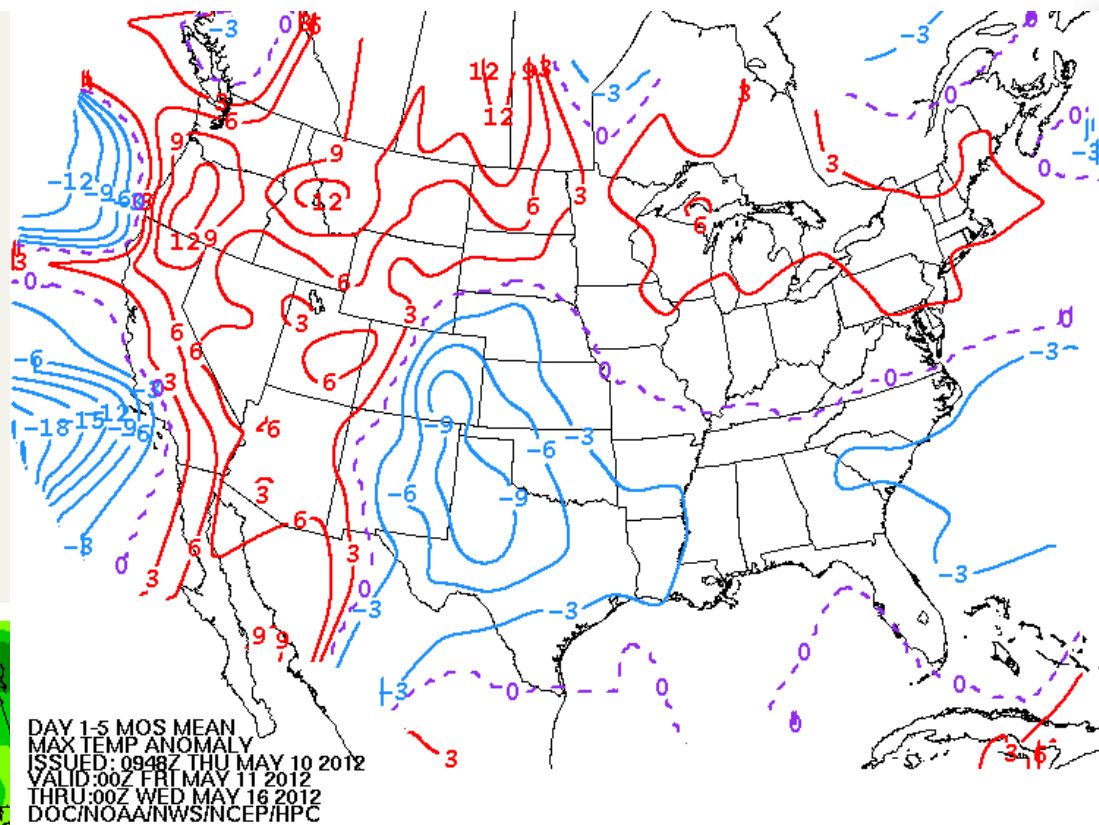
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# HPC 5-Day Outlook

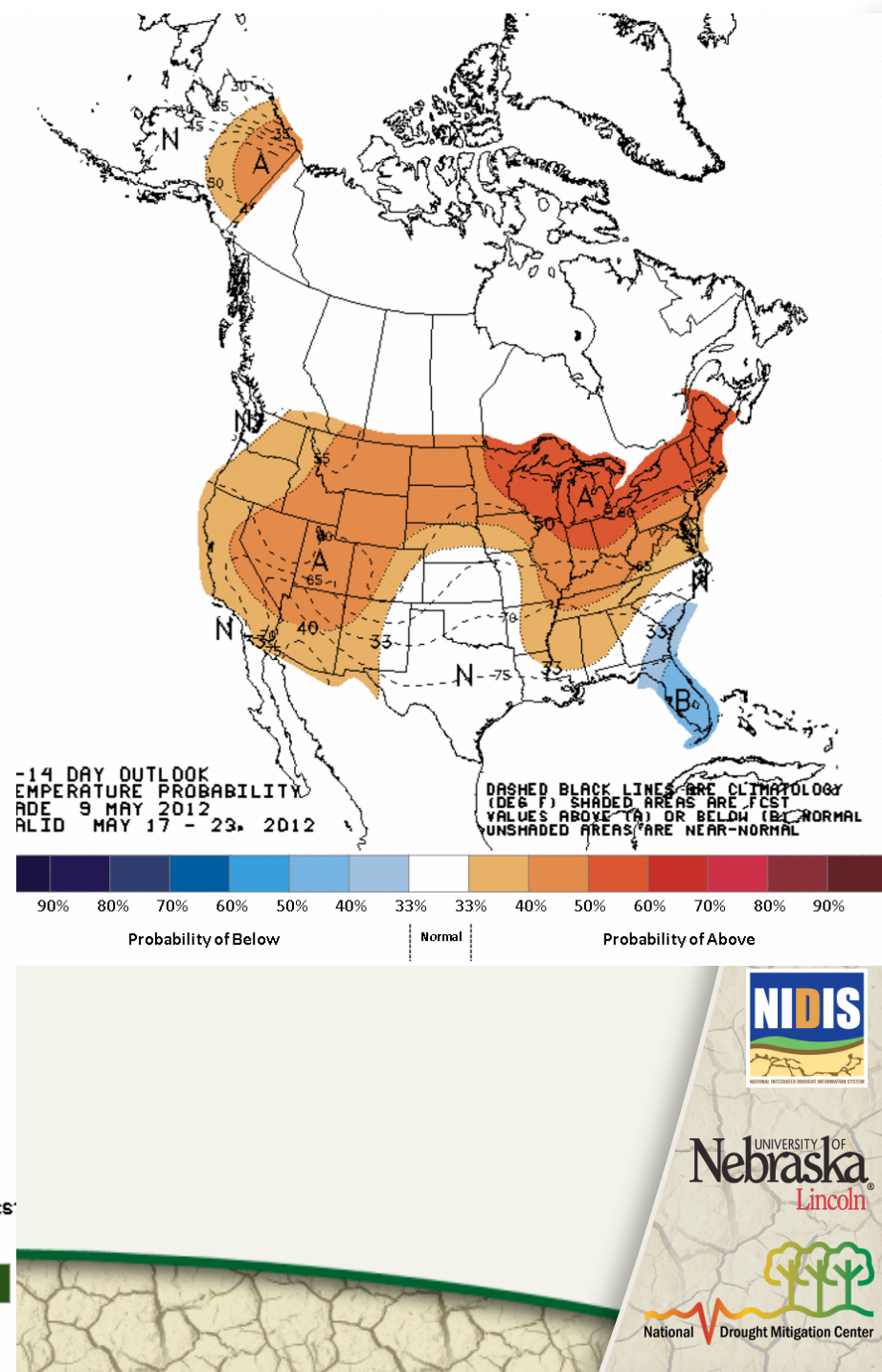
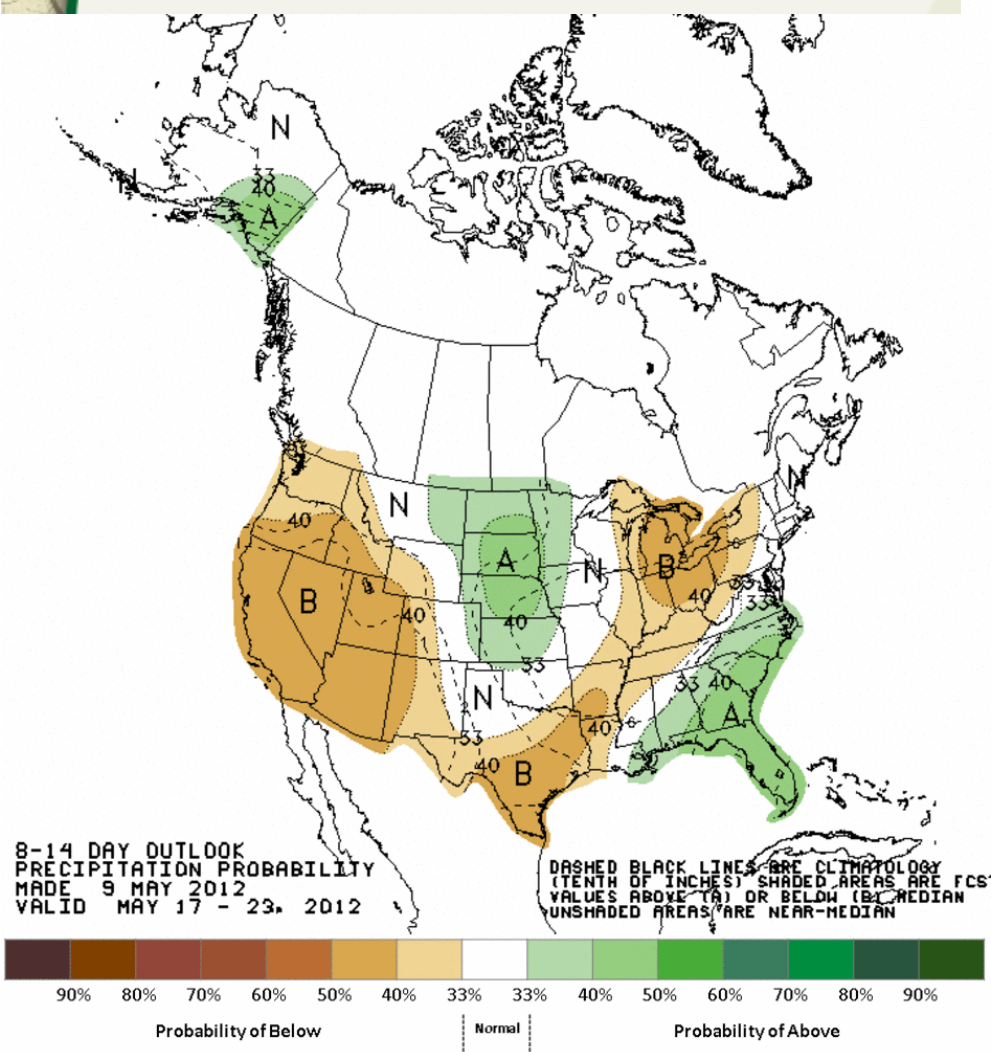


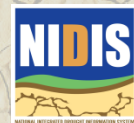
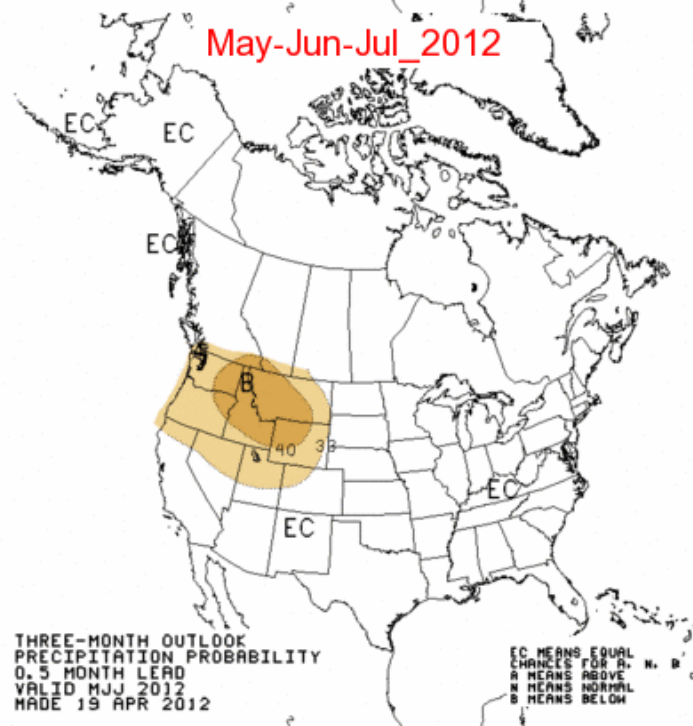
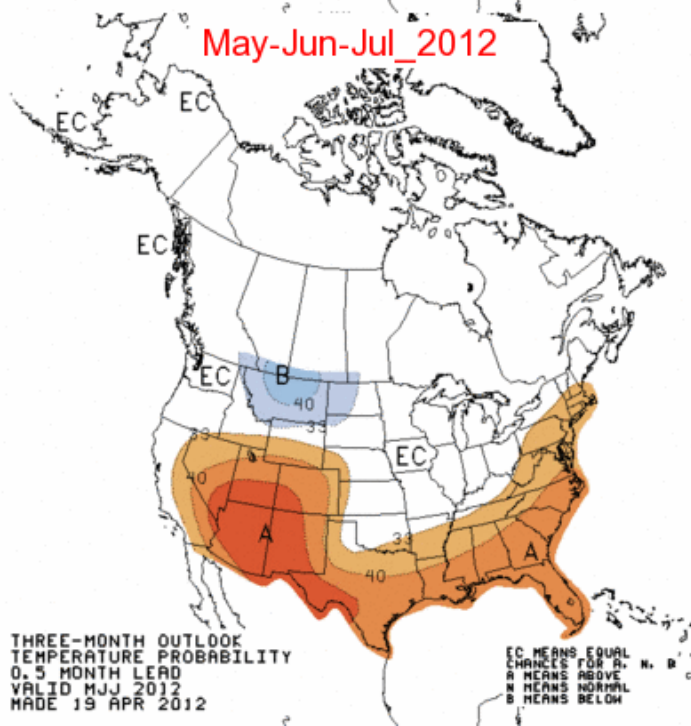
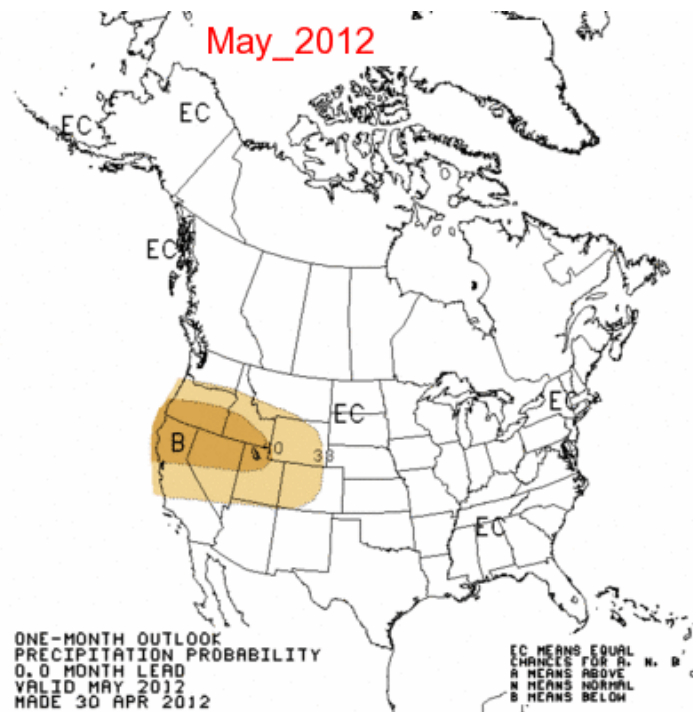
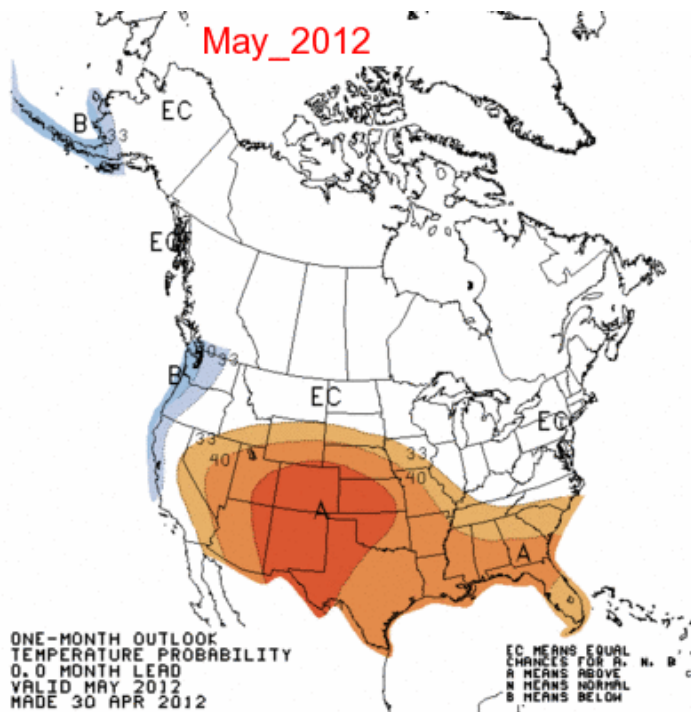
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# CPC 8-14-Day Outlooks





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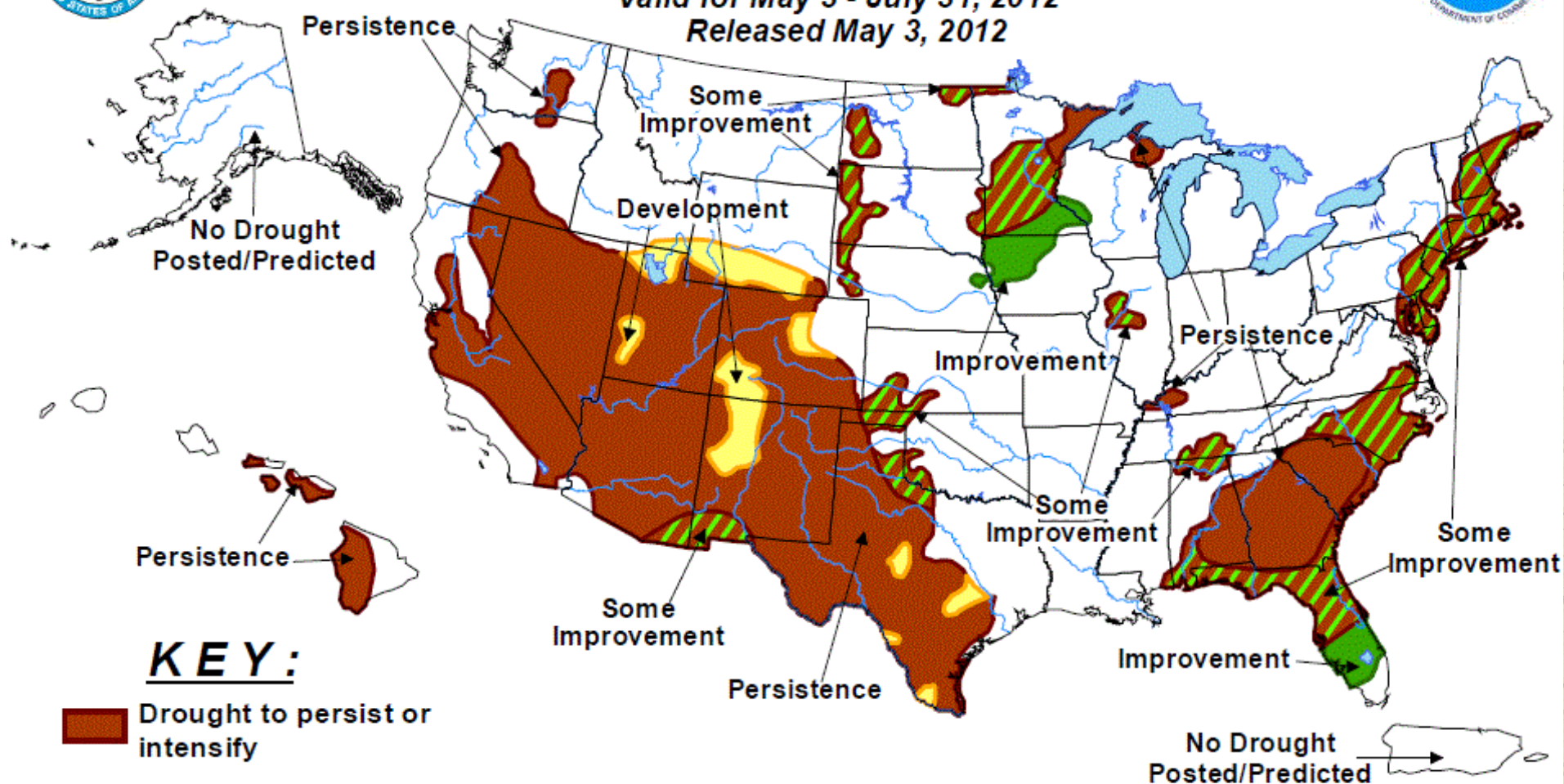


# U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook





Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for May 3 - July 31, 2012

Released May 3, 2012



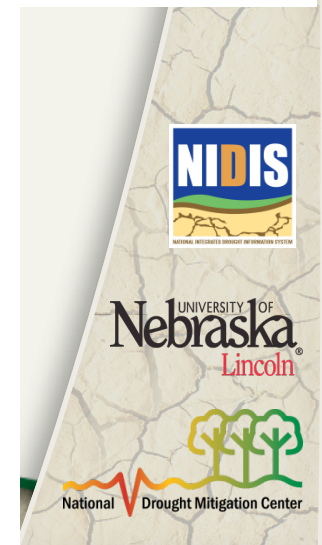
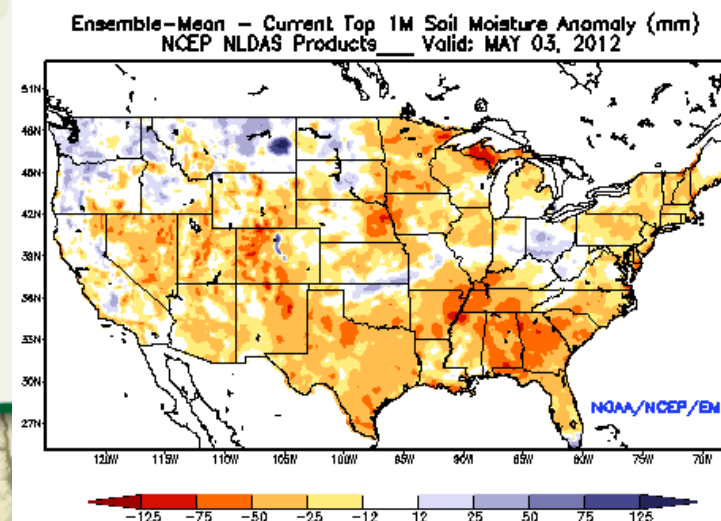
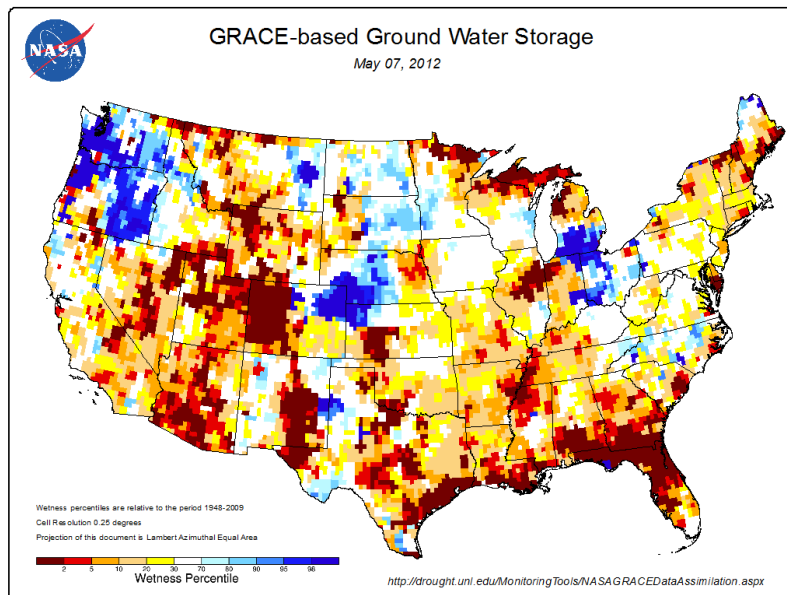
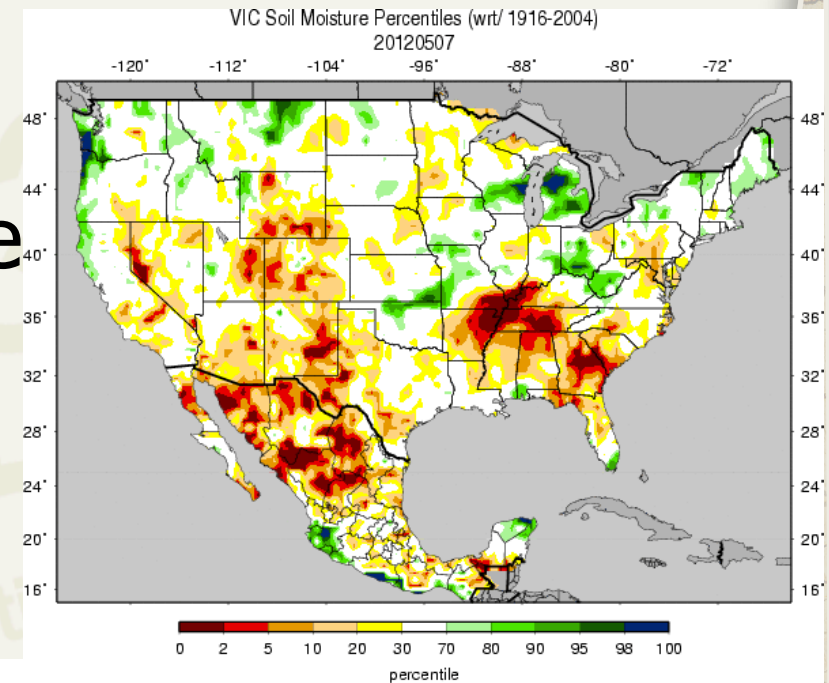
## KEY:

-  Drought to persist or intensify
-  Drought ongoing, some improvement
-  Drought likely to improve, impacts ease
-  Drought development likely

Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Short-term events -- such as individual storms -- cannot be accurately forecast more than a few days in advance. Use caution for applications -- such as crops -- that can be affected by such events. "Ongoing" drought areas are approximated from the Drought Monitor (D1 to D4 intensity). For weekly drought updates, see the latest U.S. Drought Monitor. NOTE: the green improvement areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels, but do not necessarily imply drought elimination.

# What's new.....

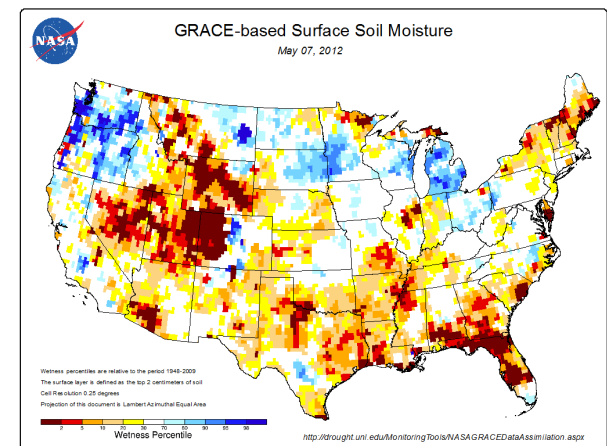
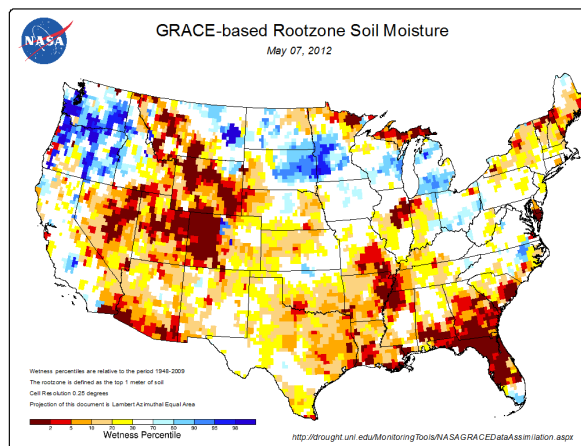
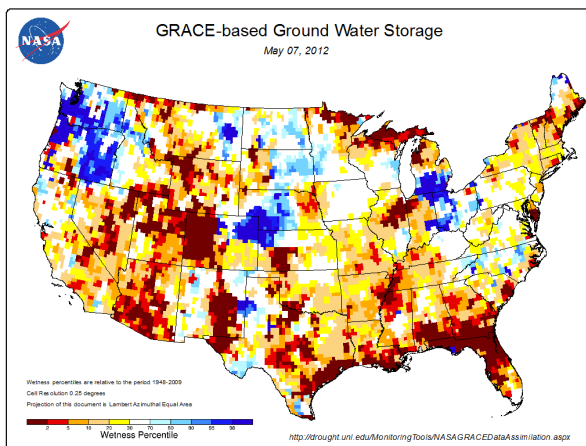
- ▶ Products that help monitor soil moisture and groundwater conditions





# GRACE Data Assimilation

- ▶ Scientists at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center generate groundwater and soil moisture drought indicators each week. They are based on terrestrial water storage observations derived from GRACE satellite data and integrated with other observations, using a sophisticated numerical model of land surface water and energy processes.
- ▶ These products are found at the National Drought Mitigation Center's webpage: **<http://drought.unl.edu/MonitoringTools/NASAGRACEDataAssimilation.aspx>**



# University of Washington Products using the VIC model

<http://www.hydro.washington.edu/forecast/monitor/index.shtml>



## Experimental Surface Water Monitor for the Continental U.S.



[Home](#) [Info](#) [Links](#) [Contacts](#) [Disclaimer](#)

### Current Conditions

VIC Plots  
MULTI-MODEL Plots  
Drought Indices  
MULTI-MODEL Drought  
Severity  
Data

### Forecasts

VIC ESP Plots

### Archive

(1915-present)

SM & SWE Plots  
*Note: Popup blocking  
prevents Archive access*

Powered by  
**ACIS**  
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Current percentiles for soil moisture, SWE and other variables with respect to the climatological period (1916-2004 for CONUS and 1926-2004 for Mexico). These update daily by 11-12 pm PST, and have a lag of 1-2 days. **Roll the mouse over links below (or click) to see different maps.** Note: SM & SWE maps are for daily values, whereas RO maps are for cumulative values. **SW Monitor description:** [\(Wood, 2008\)](#)

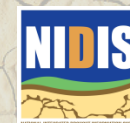
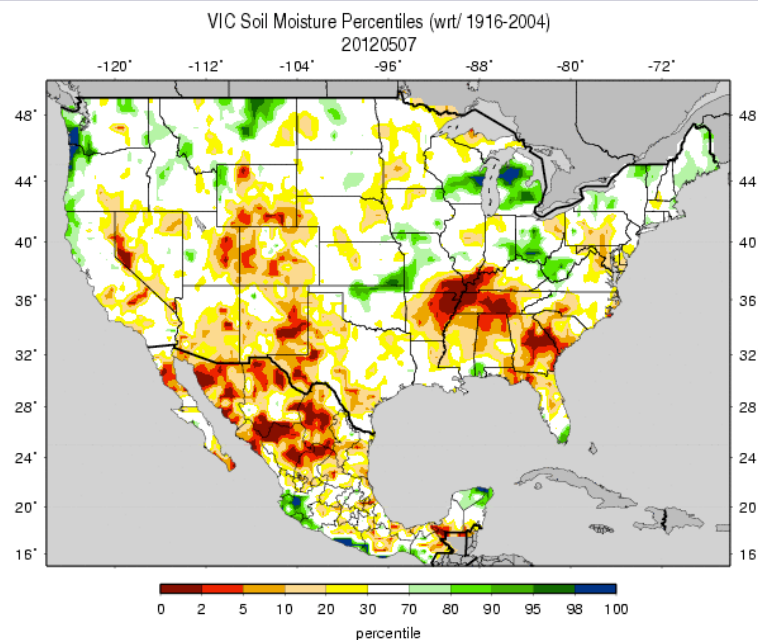
	Soil Moisture	SWE	Total Moisture Storage (SM+SWE)	Cumulative Runoff
Current Plots	<a href="#">~CPC [cmpr]</a> <a href="#">~DM [cmpr]</a>	<a href="#">curr</a>	<a href="#">curr</a>	<a href="#">1mo</a> <a href="#">2mo</a> <a href="#">3mo</a> <a href="#">6mo</a> <a href="#">9mo</a> <a href="#">12mo</a> <a href="#">18mo</a> <a href="#">24mo</a> <a href="#">36mo</a> <a href="#">48mo</a> <a href="#">60mo</a> <a href="#">WY</a>
Recent Changes	<a href="#">1 wk</a> <a href="#">2 wk</a> <a href="#">1 mo</a>	<a href="#">1 wk</a> <a href="#">2 wk</a> <a href="#">1 mo</a>	-	

### Regional Maps

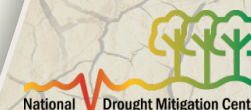
SM: [West](#) [Central](#)  
[East](#)  
[Washington State](#)  
[Page](#)

### Useful Links

-- [DM/7-Day](#)  
[Streamflow mashup](#)  
-- [DM Unified Blend /](#)  
[Change](#)



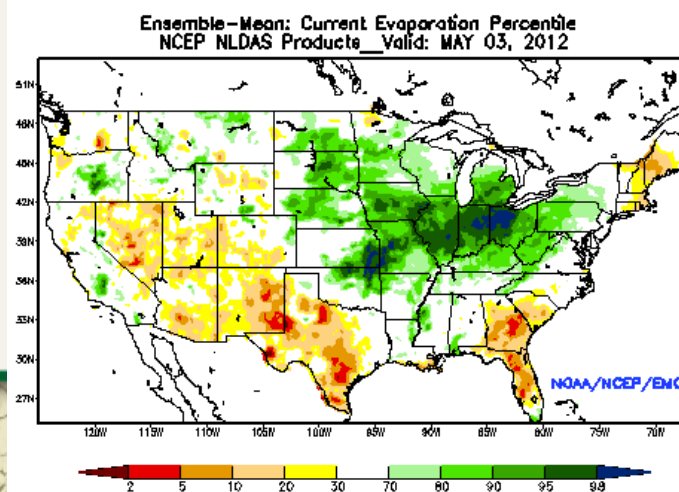
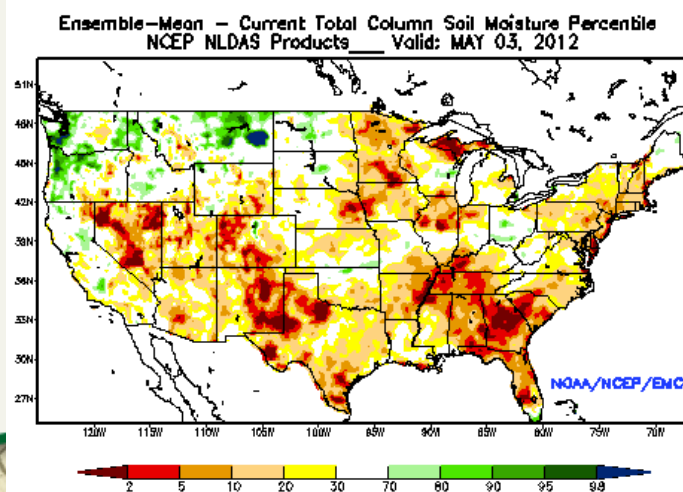
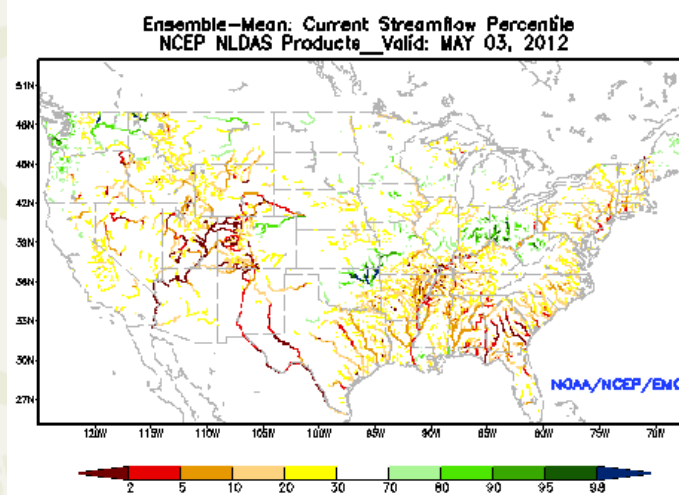
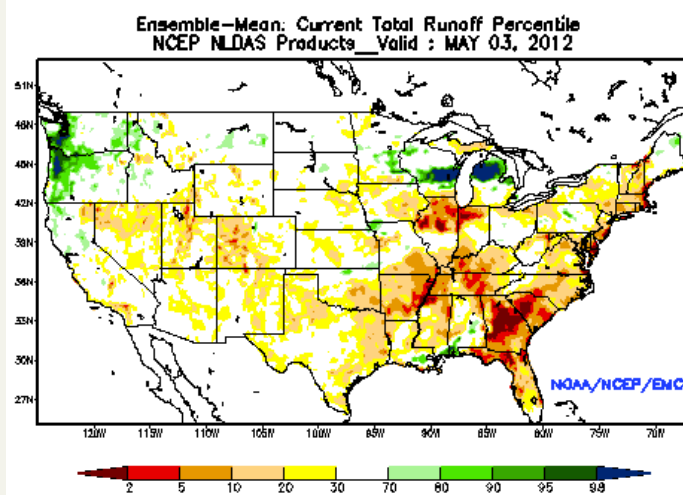
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# North American Land Data Assimilation System (NLDAS)

► <http://www.emc.ncep.noaa.gov/mmb/nldas/drought/>



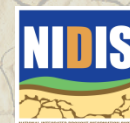
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# Contact Information:

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402-472-6775

National Drought Mitigation Center  
School of Natural Resources  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln



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Lincoln



SCIPP/NIDIS Drought Webinar Series, May 10, 2012



# Ground Water/Surface Water Interactions

Robert Puls, Ph.D.  
Director, Oklahoma Water Survey



*The University of Oklahoma*

# Oklahoma's Challenge

*Increasing demands for sources of water, combined with changing land use, population growth, aging infrastructure, and climate change, pose significant threats to our state's water resources.*

*Failure to manage our state's waters in an integrated, sustainable manner will limit economic prosperity and jeopardize both human and aquatic ecosystem health.*



*The University of Oklahoma*



# Ground Water and Surface Water

***Ground Water: Is often taken for granted because of “out of sight-out of mind mentality”.***

Understanding the connections between ground and surface water as part of the hydrologic cycle is crucial to successfully managing water resources.



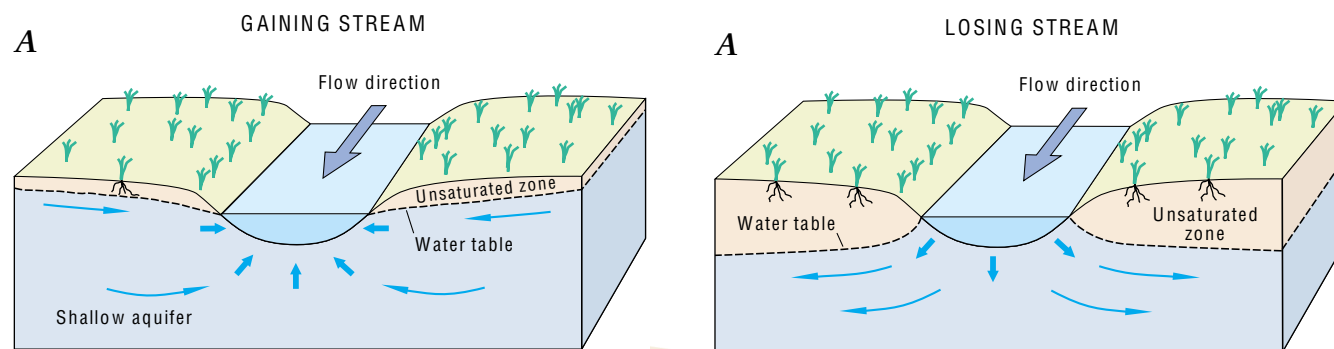
*The University of Oklahoma*

# Ground Water/Surface Water Interactions (GSI)

***It's ALL connected*** - exchange of water in and out of the stream bed and banks

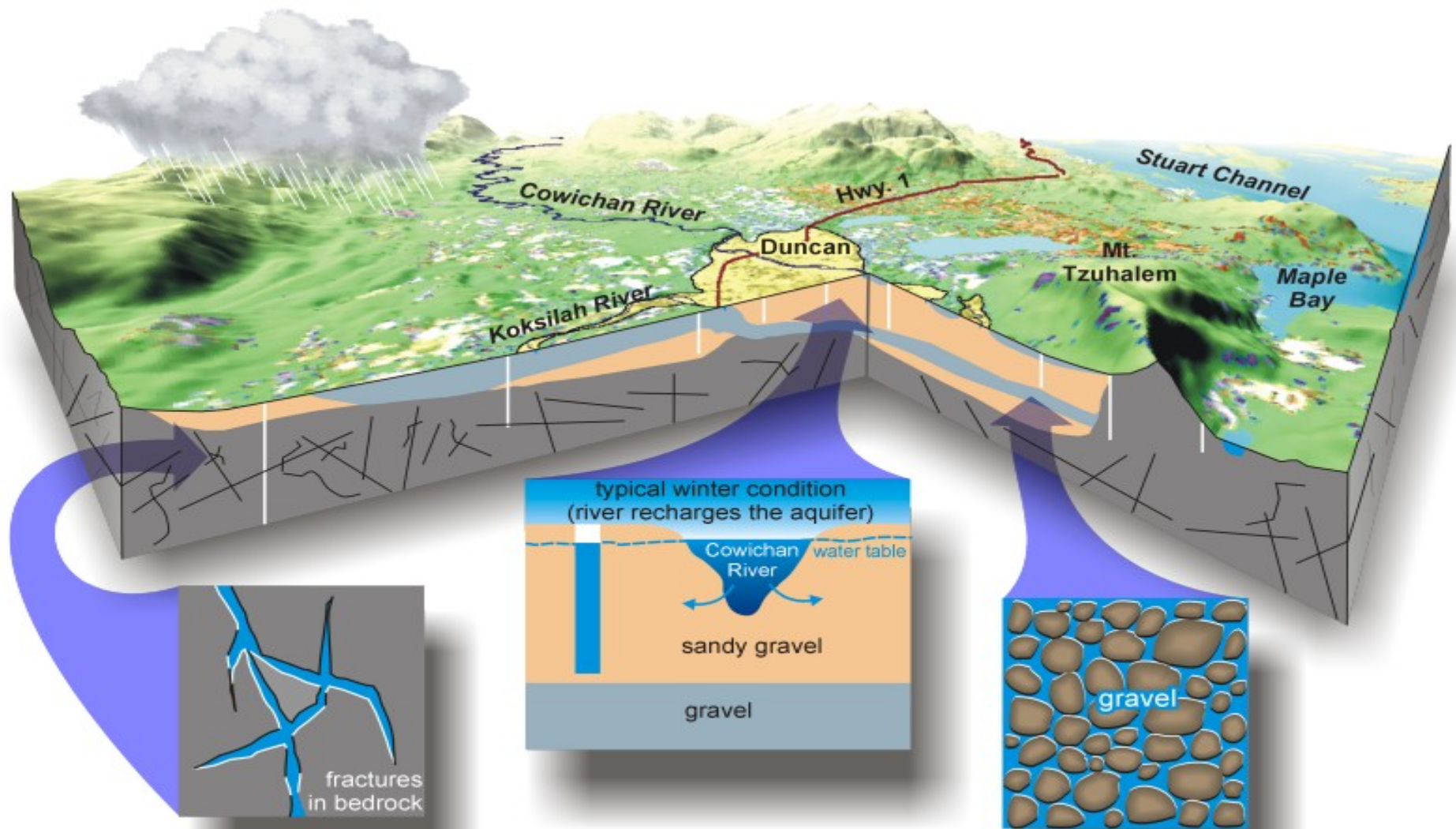
***Gaining stream:*** Stream that is being recharged by adjacent ground water

***Losing stream:*** Stream that is recharging the ground water





# Losing Stream

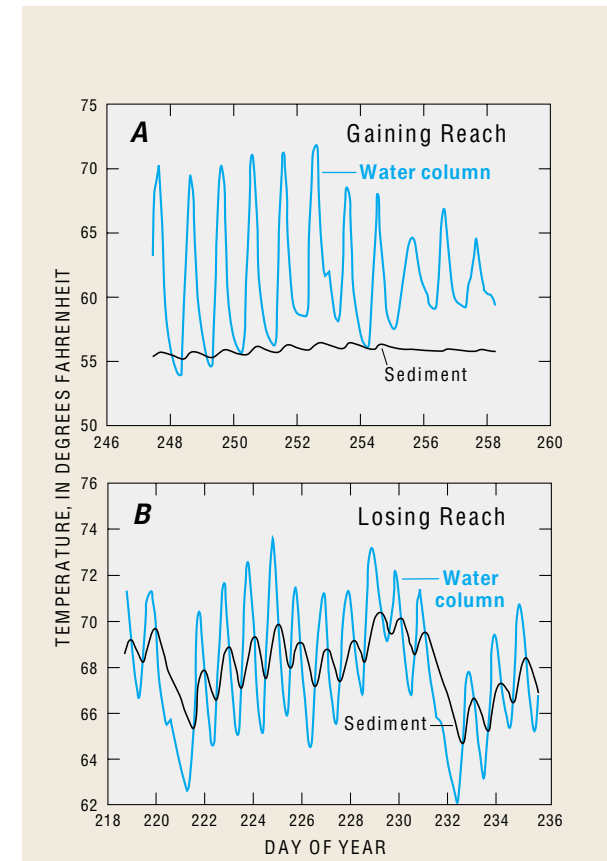


# Ground Water/Surface Water Interactions (GSI)

***Temperature of stream sediment a good measure for mapping gaining and losing reaches of streams***

***Gaining stream:*** Sediment temperature fairly constant

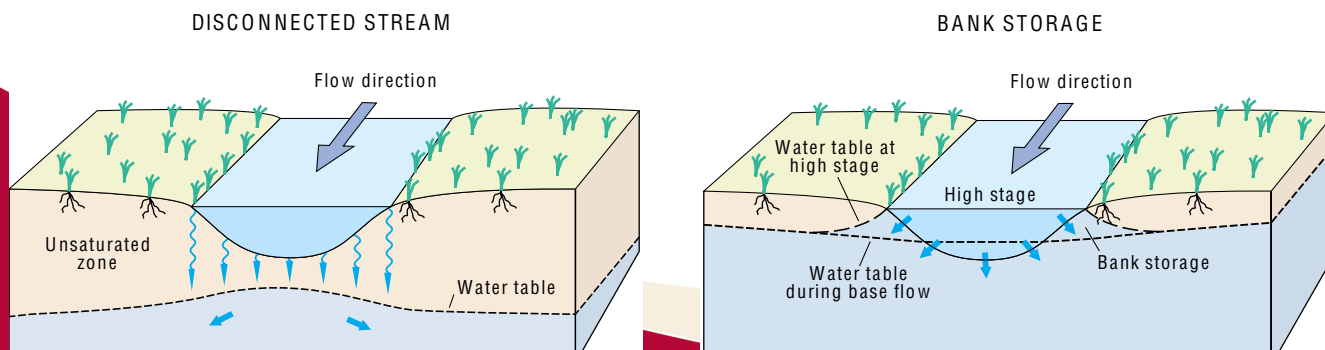
***Losing stream:*** Sediment temperature varies widely and tracks water column temperature.





# GSI

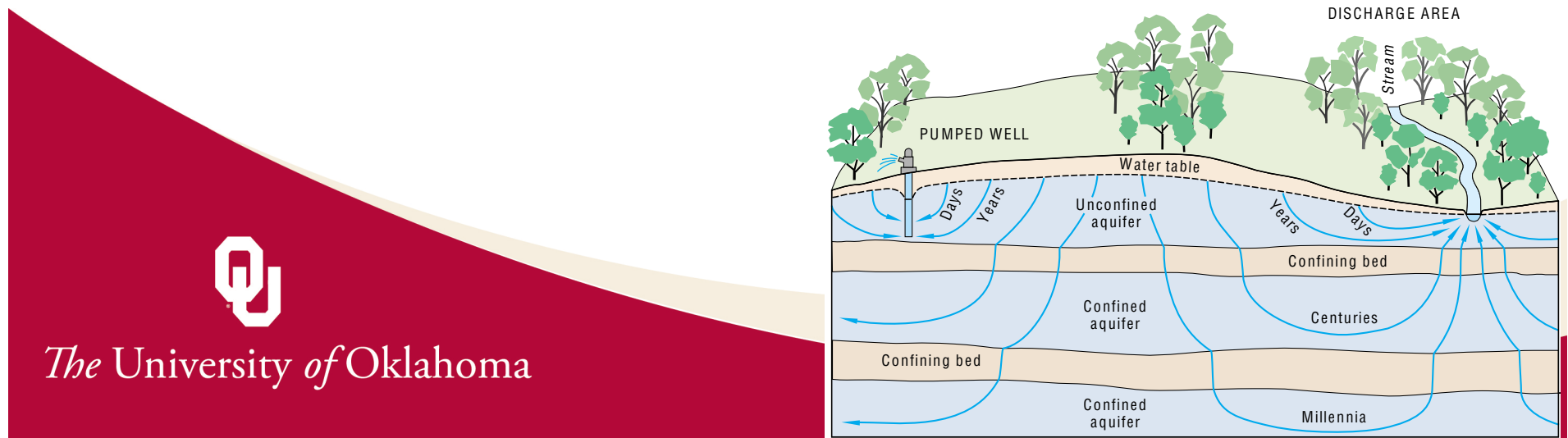
- ***Disconnected streams:*** Losing streams where no connection exists between stream and ground water
- ***Bank storage:*** rapid rise in stream stage that causes water to move from the stream into the streambanks; usually is caused by storm precipitation, rapid snowmelt, or release of water from a reservoir



# GSI

## ***GSI occurs at several temporal or spatial scales:***

- Watershed scale GSI is on the order of miles and involves ground water discharge over an entire watershed which supplies the stream base flow.
- Near-stream scale GSI, on the order of feet and days, captures the losing/gaining reaches of streams that support aquatic and riparian habitats.

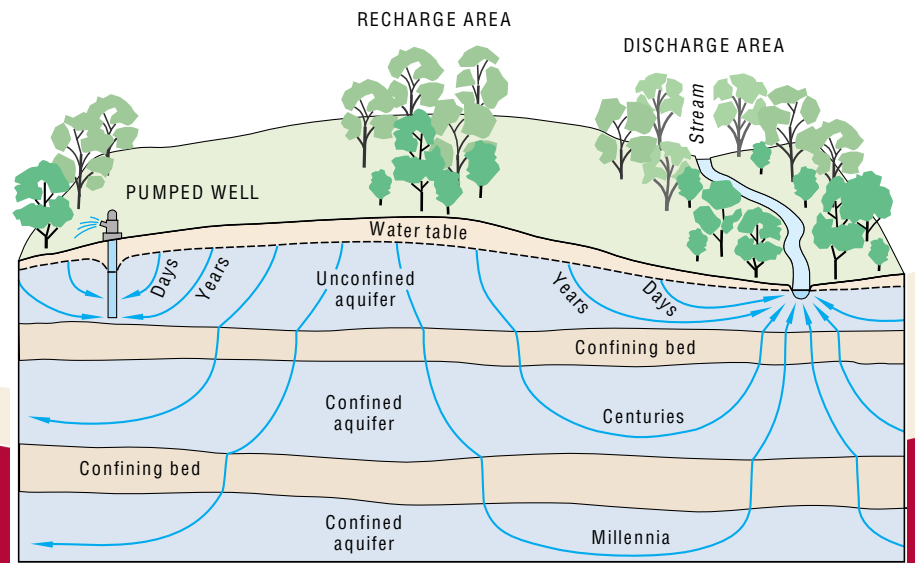


*The University of Oklahoma*

# GSI

***GSI greatly influenced by the presence of vegetation along streams, rivers, lakes:***

- Buffer strips and riparian zones act to improve stream water quality through bank stabilization, reducing pollutant loading from overland flow and sediment loading
- These vegetation zones also support terrestrial and aquatic habitats.



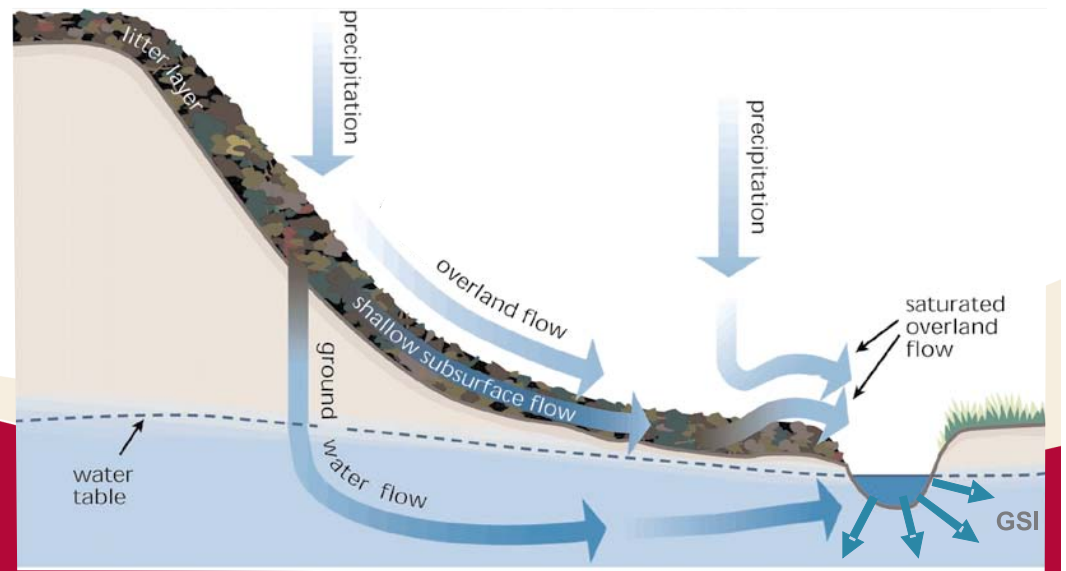
*The University of Oklahoma*



# GSI

- Sediment scale GSI refers to exchanges in the stream beds and banks that occur on the scale of inches and minutes.

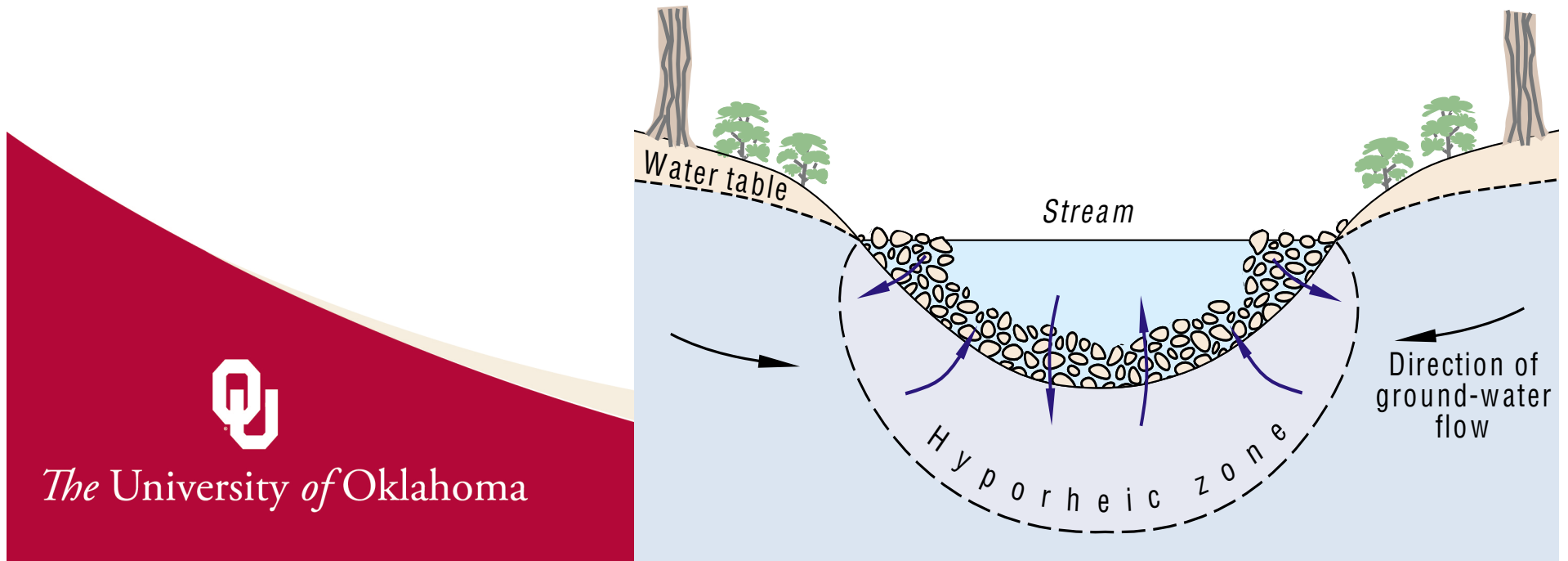
GSI in the near-stream and sediment scale is often called hyporheic flow.



*The University of Oklahoma*

## GSI

- The hyporheic zone is critical in support of aquatic life and important in terms of regulation of contaminant transport in subsurface systems.



# GSI

- The extent of the hyporheic zone depends on the 3 dimensional character of the stream. This zone expands with meandering streams and varies with streambed slope changes as well.

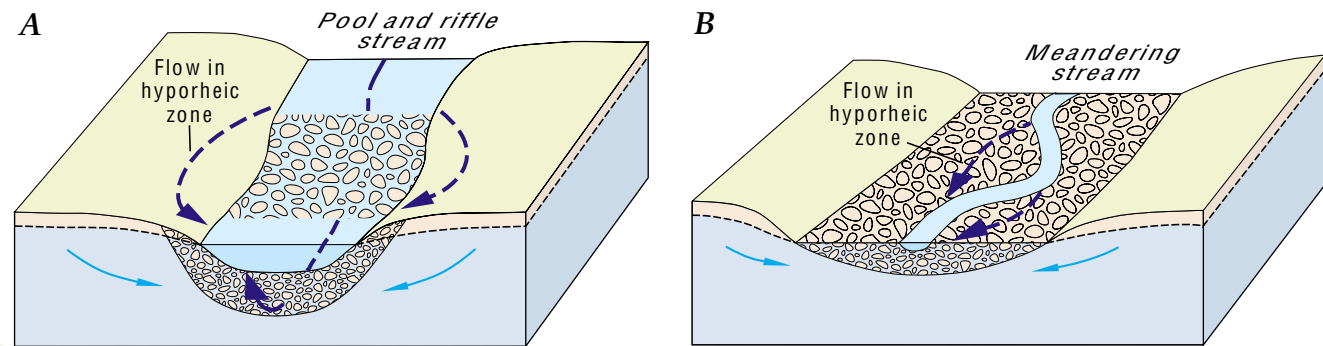


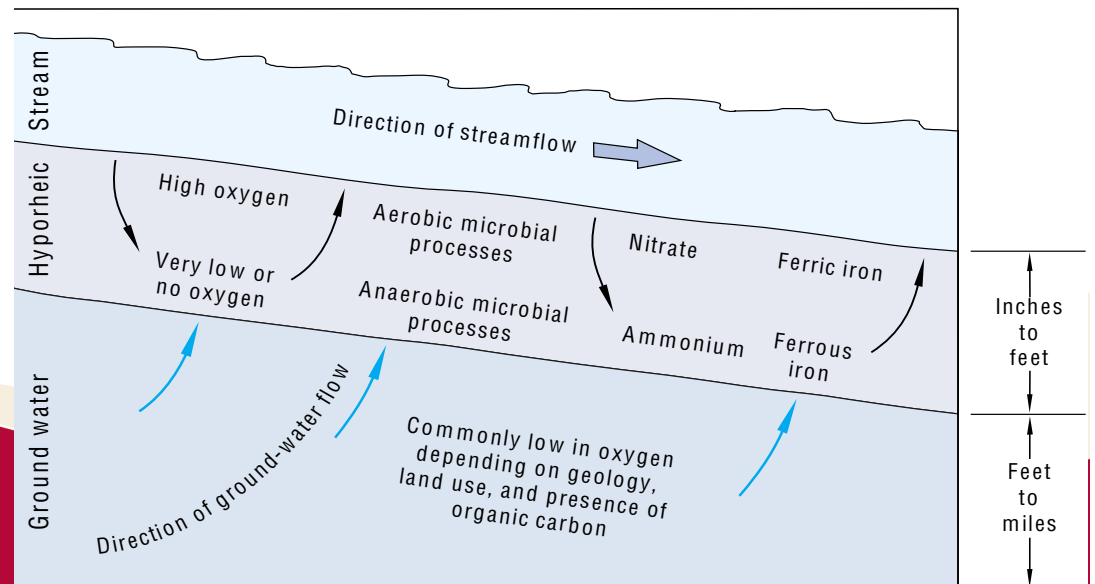
Figure 14. Surface-water exchange with ground water in the hyporheic zone is associated with abrupt changes in streambed slope (A) and with stream meanders (B).





# GSI

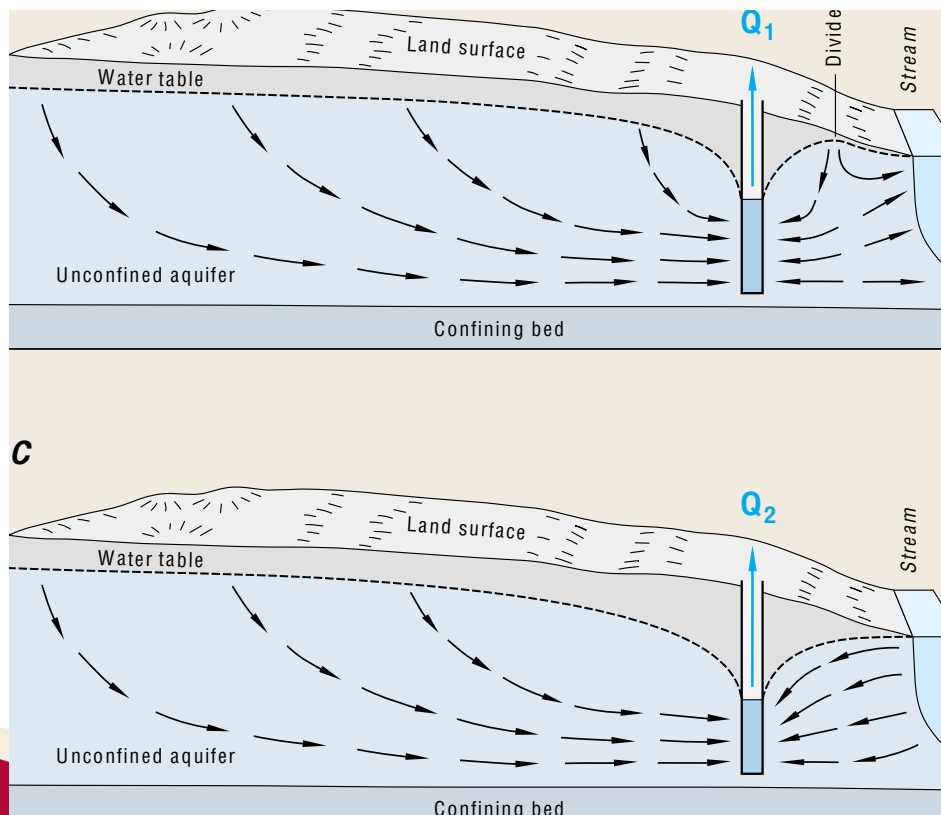
- The hyporheic zone is characterized by variations in oxygen levels, microbial processes and the speciation of inorganic compounds (e.g. N, Fe)
- This zone is an important source of nutrient uptake via microbial processes, and adsorption, precipitation reactions controlling inorganic-organic transport



*The University of Oklahoma*

# GSI and Pumping Wells

Wells can draw divert water discharging to adjoining streams and increased pumping can draw all water away from streams resulting in reduced flows and Negative impacts to aquatic Organisms.



# Thank You for Your Attention

Acknowledgements: Graphics from USGS Circular 1139





# Groundwater Recharge and Drought



**Larry French, P.G.**

Director, Groundwater Resources

Texas Water Development Board

May 10, 2012



# Outline

- **Recharge: what is it? how is it measured?**
- **Recharge conditions: a tale of two aquifers**
- **Groundwater management and drought: know your aquifer**

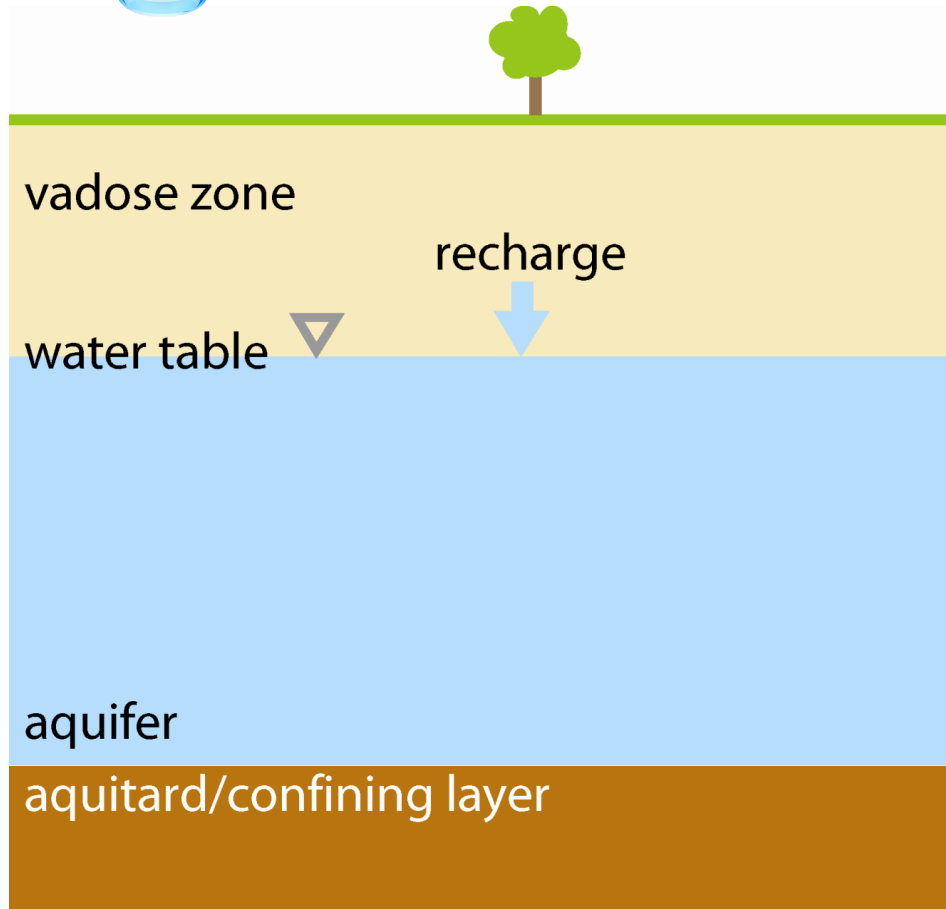


- **Recharge: what is it? how is it measured?**
- **Recharge conditions: a tale of two aquifers**
- **Groundwater management and drought: know your aquifer**





# recharge



**Recharge is water that infiltrates to the water table of an aquifer.**



## how is recharge measured?

- Estimated is a better term than “measured.”
- Diffuse or focused
- See next slide for:
  - Surface water
  - Unsaturated Zone
  - Saturated Zone

Table 2. Suggested techniques for quantifying recharge to the major aquifers in Texas; E, Edwards aquifer; E-T, Edwards Trinity aquifer; CPA, Cenozoic Pecos Alluvium aquifer; GC, Gulf Coast aquifer; HMB, Hueco Mesilla Bolson; O, Ogallala aquifer; S, Seymour aquifer; and T, Trinity aquifer.

	E	E-T	CW	CPA	GC	HMB	O	S	T
Surface Water									
Channel water budget	✓		✓				✓		
Baseflow discharge		✓	✓						✓
Seepage meters							✓		
Heat tracers						✓	✓		
Watershed modeling	✓				✓				✓
Unsaturated Zone									
Zero Flux Plane	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Tracers									
Cl			✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
$^{36}\text{Cl}/\text{Cl}$			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
$^3\text{H}$			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Modeling			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Saturated Zone									
Water table fluctuations			✓		✓			✓	✓
Tracers									
Cl			✓		✓	✓			✓
$^3\text{H}$		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
$^3\text{H}/^3\text{He}$			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CFCs		✓	✓		✓		✓		✓
$^{14}\text{C}$			✓			✓			✓
Modeling	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

**Source:**

**“Groundwater Recharge  
in Texas” by Bridget  
Scanlon, Alan Dutton,  
Marios Sophocleous**



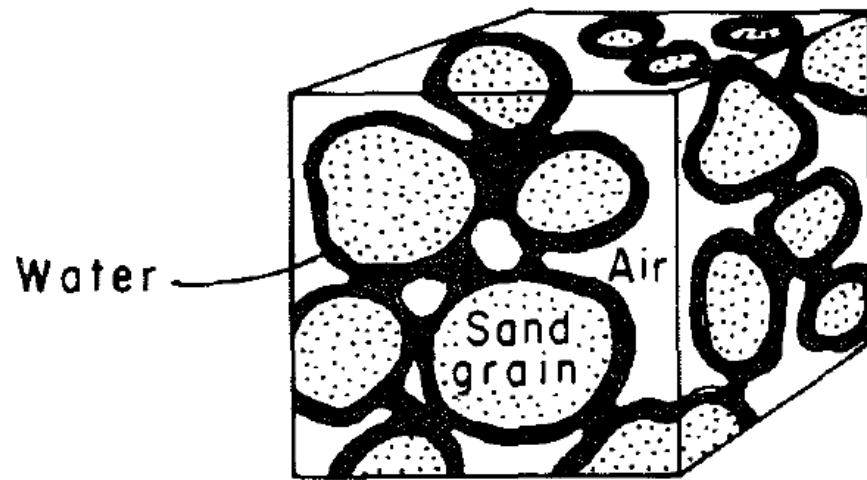
- Recharge: what is it? how is it measured?
- **Recharge conditions: a tale of two aquifers**
- Groundwater management and drought: know your aquifer





## Recharge varies considerably

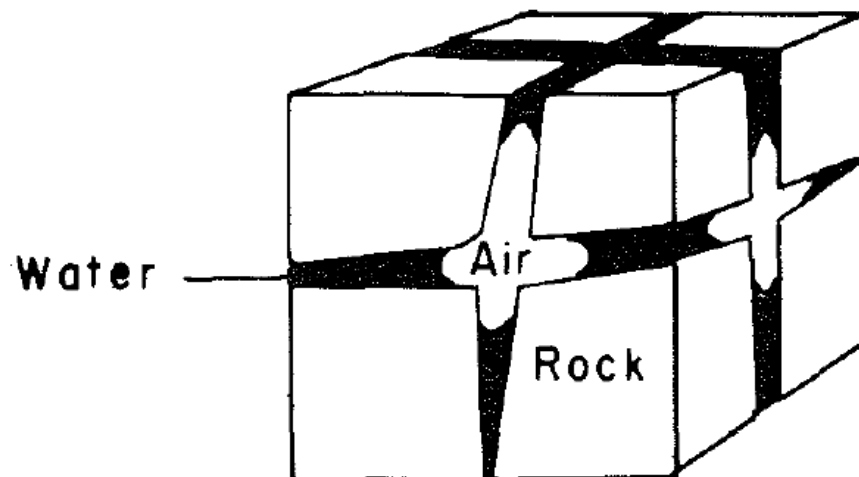
- High Plains/Ogallala aquifer: 0.004 to 1.7 in/yr (outside irrigated areas) and 0.5 to 8.6 in/yr (playa-focused)
- Edwards aquifer: dynamic, highly variable



GRANULAR MATERIAL

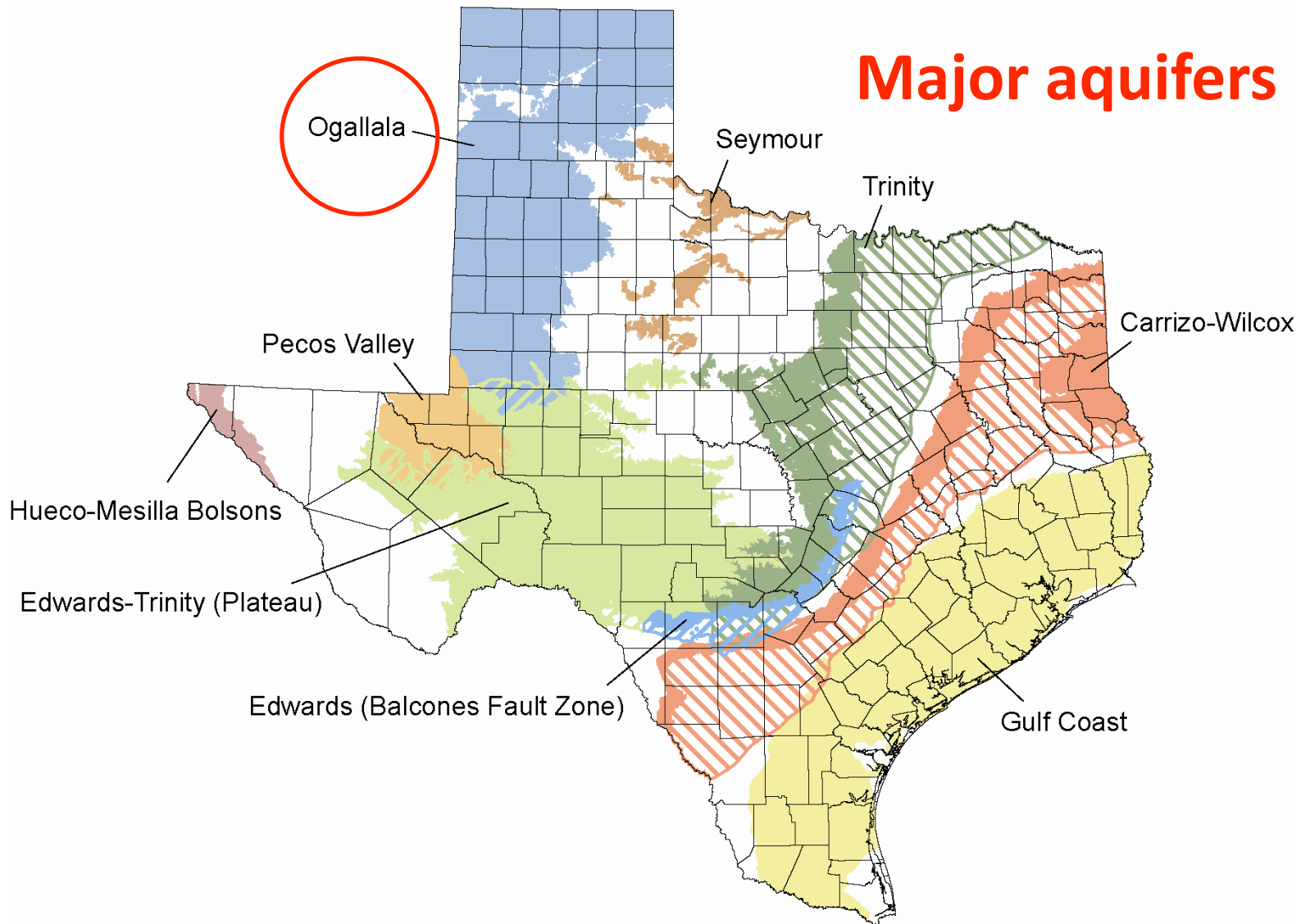
Water retained as a film on rock surfaces and in capillary-size openings after gravity drainage.

Heath, 1987



FRACTURED ROCK

## Major aquifers







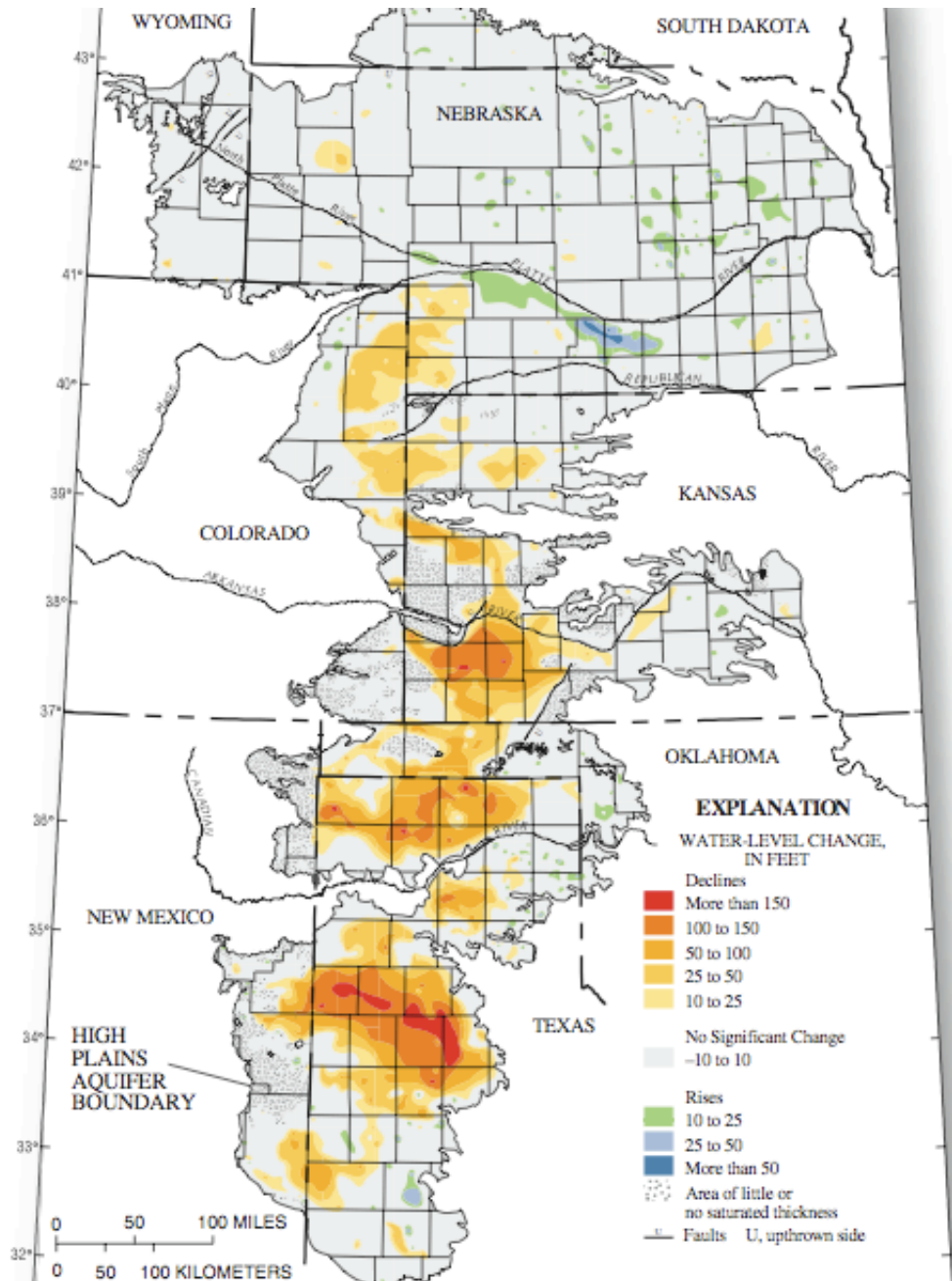
McDonald Irrigation Well, 1200 Gallons per Minute, Hereford, Texas.

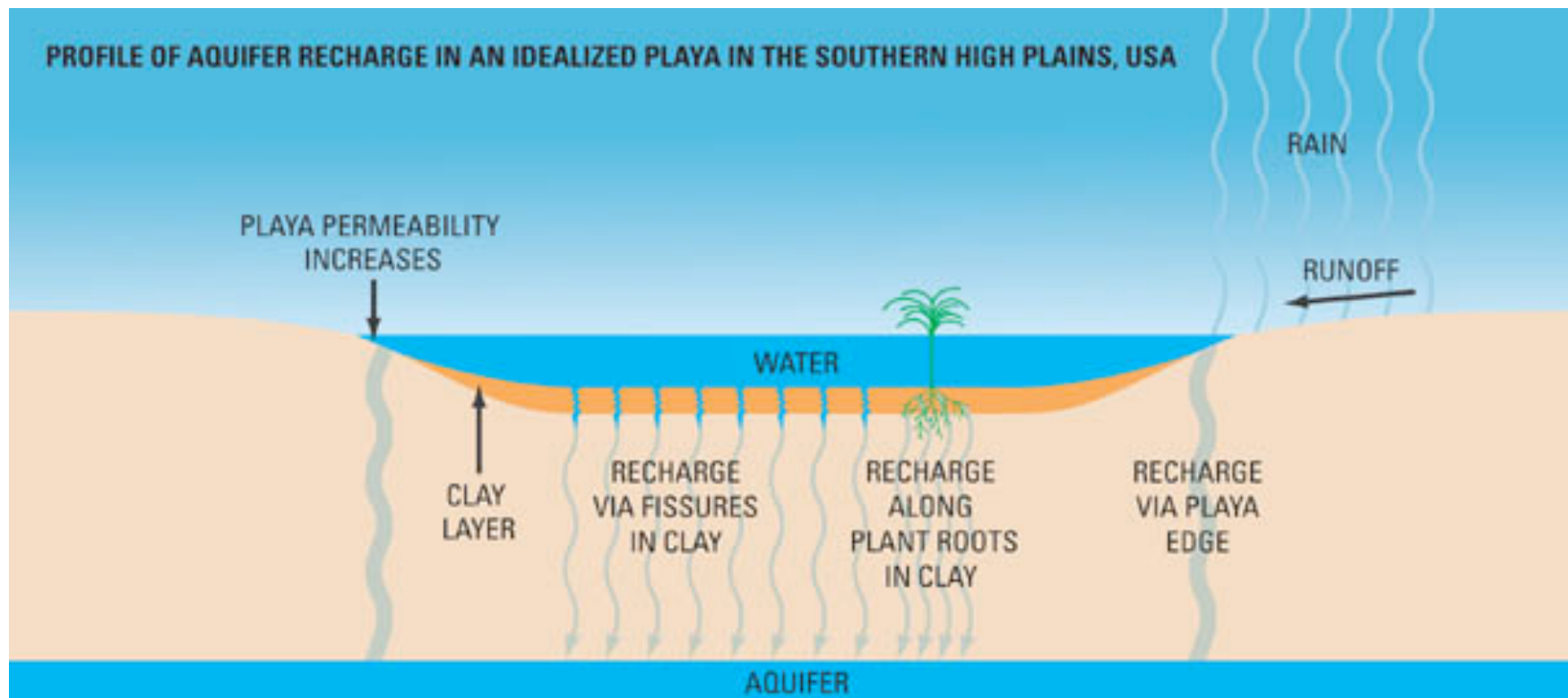
**Texas Water**   
**Development Board**



# Water level changes High Plains Aquifer

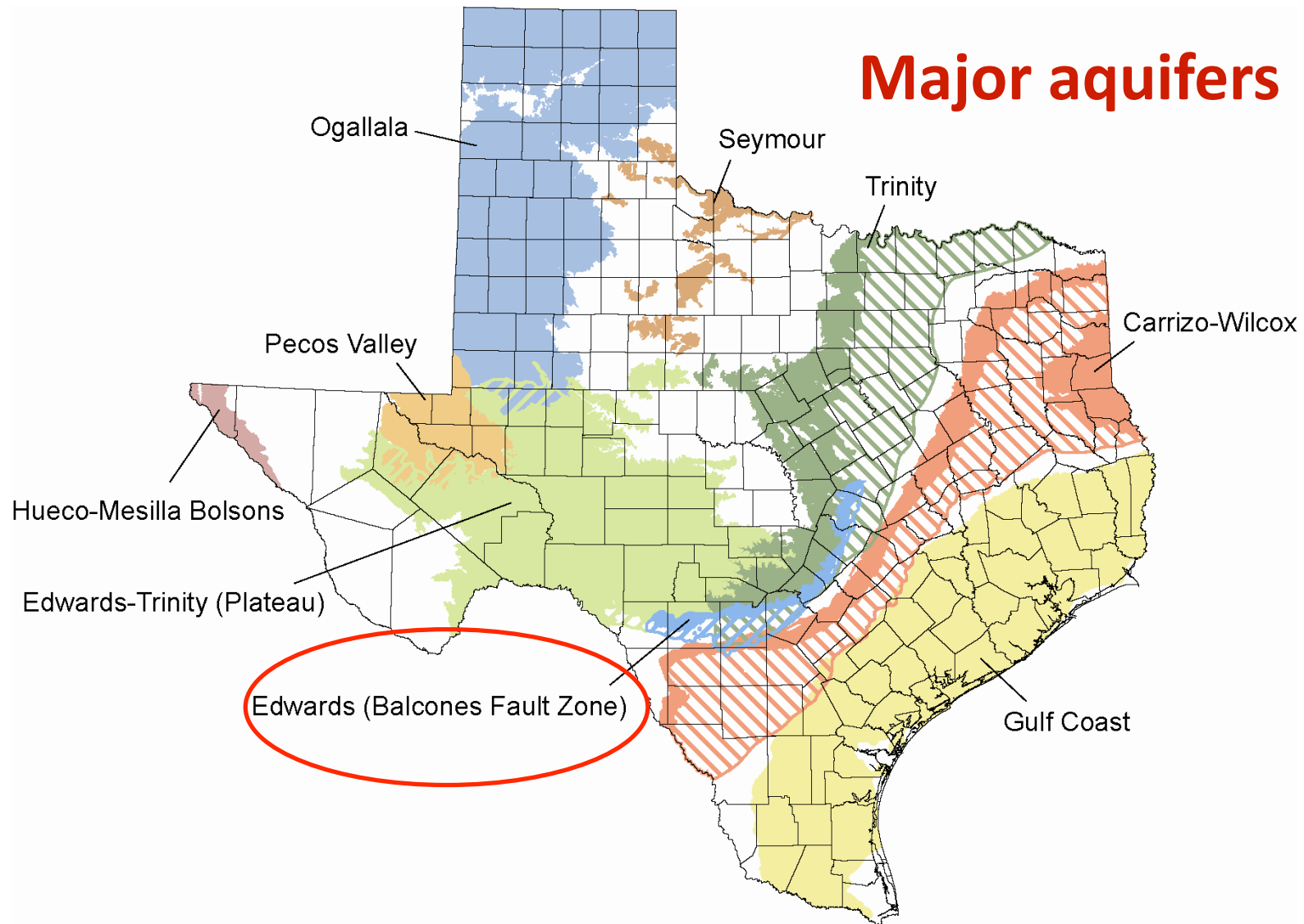
*Scientific Investigations  
Report 2011-5089  
USGS*



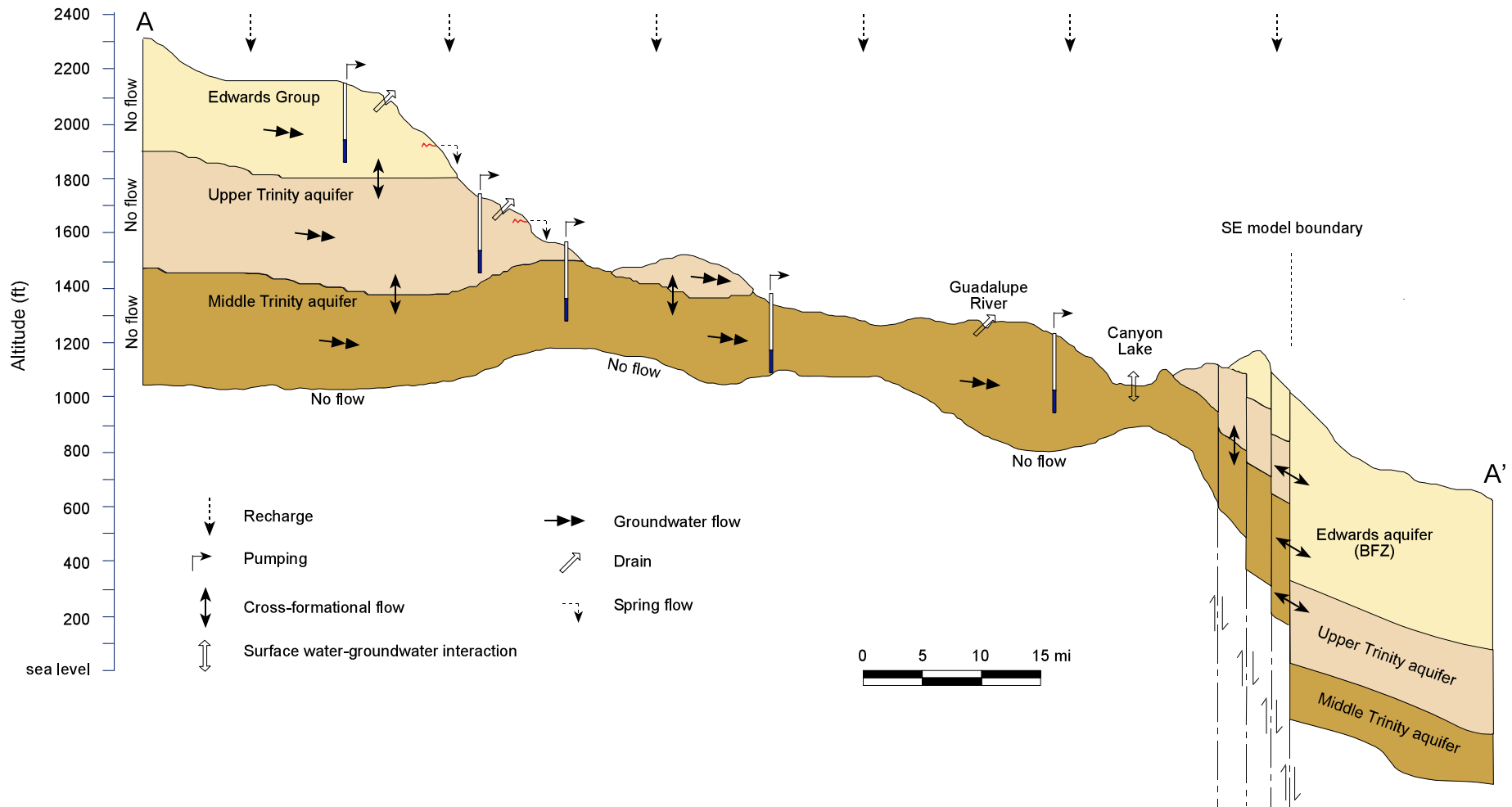


Graphic from Playa Lakes Joint Venture

# Major aquifers



# cross-section - structure





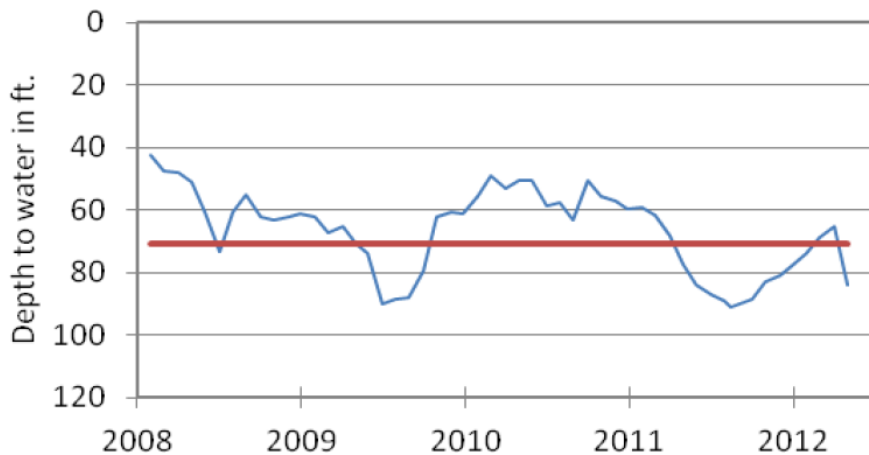
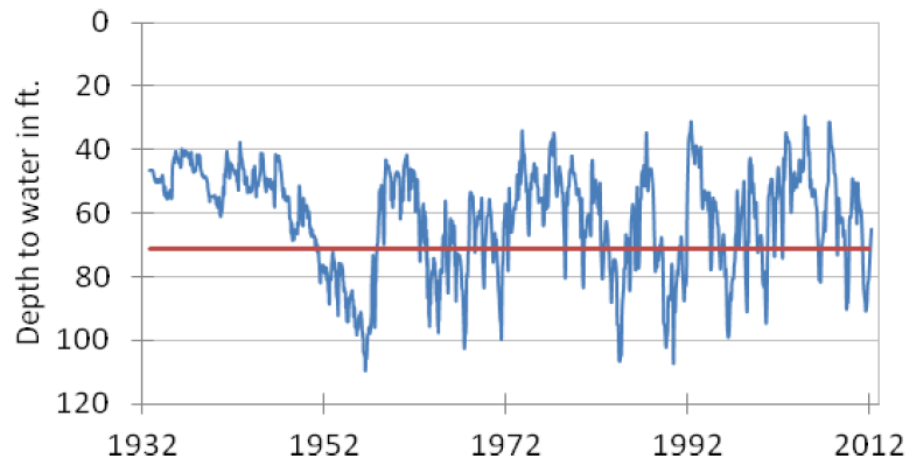


**Texas Water**   
**Development Board**

## July 2011 Groundwater Levels in Edwards Aquifer observation wells

- Declined in thirteen monitoring wells
- The J-17 well in San Antonio recorded a water level of 88.88 feet below land surface. This water level is 7.88 feet below the Stage II critical management level in that segment of the Edwards Aquifer. Stage II restrictions were triggered on June 1, 2011 by the Edwards Aquifer Authority after the 10 day average of water levels fell below 650 foot elevation or 81 feet below land surface.

**(8) State Well ID 68-37-203 (J-17)  
In San Antonio, Bexar County  
Edwards (BFZ) Aquifer**



The late April water level measurement in this Edwards (BFZ) Aquifer well, elevation 731 feet above sea level, was 84.08 feet below land surface. This was 19.09 feet below last month's measurement, 6.92 feet below last year's measurement, and 37.44 feet below the initial measurement recorded in 1932.

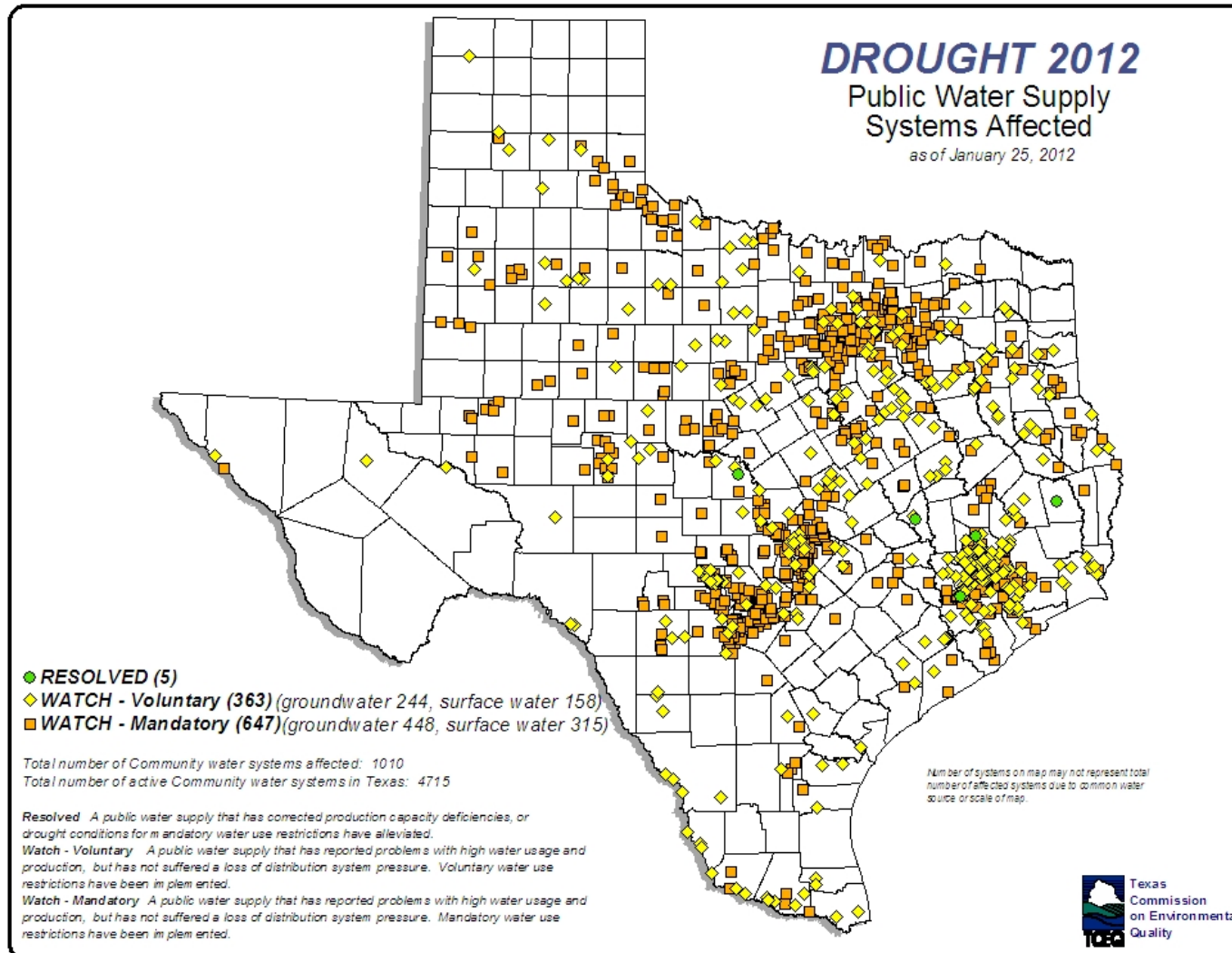
**\*\*\* Water levels below the red line indicate Edwards Aquifer Authority Stage I drought restrictions. \*\*\***



- **Recharge: what is it? how is it measured?**
- **Recharge conditions: a tale of two aquifers**
- **Groundwater management and drought: know your aquifer**



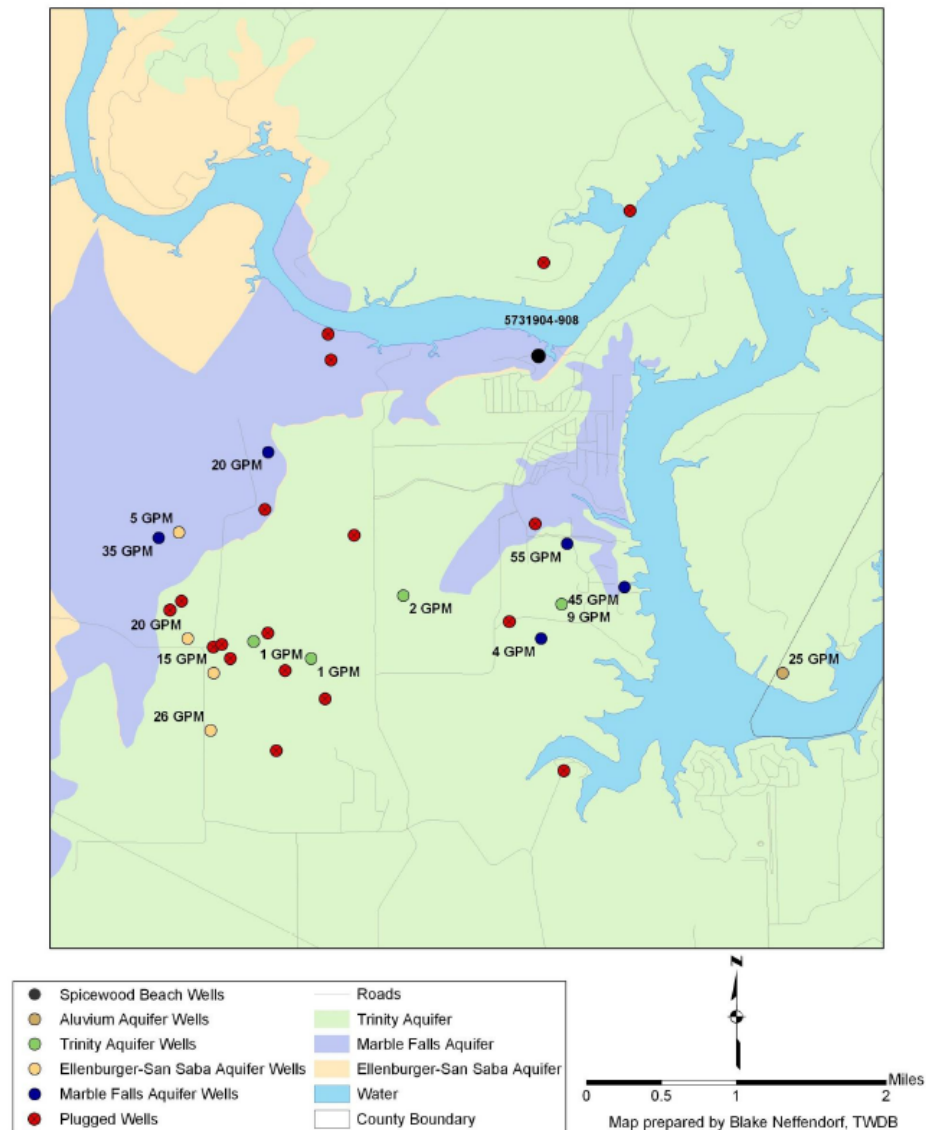
# Public Water Supply Systems Affected by Drought



## Spicewood Beach, near Austin

- Groundwater supply from shallow wells screened in Colorado River alluvium (normally inundated by Lake Travis).
- Lake Travis water level declined significantly in drought of 2011.
- By early 2012, groundwater levels in alluvium had also decreased to the point that the water supply wells were dry.

Spicewood Beach Area Wells





## Declining groundwater levels can affect surface water resources

TWDB has evaluated several factors that have played a role in the decline in Lake Meredith storage. Reductions in:

- Releases from Ute Dam (upstream in New Mexico) - ~ 32%
- Irrigation from return flows from Revuelto Creek (downstream of Ute Dam) - ~23%
- Base flow due to declining groundwater levels - ~ 22%
- Runoff from precipitation - ~ 18%
- Other factors - ~5%

*These are estimates based on comparison of conditions for 1965-2000 and 2001-2006.*

# Contact Information



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Director, Groundwater Resources

Texas Water Development Board

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512-463-5067

[www.twdb.texas.gov](http://www.twdb.texas.gov)





# ABRFC Experimental Soil Moisture Graphics

Eric Jones/Lee Crowley  
Arkansas/Red River Forecast Center  
National Weather Service  
Tulsa, OK, USA



# Soil Moisture Computation

- Uses the SACSMA continuous soil moisture operation of the 4x4 km OHD distributed hydrologic model
- 17 model parameters
- Model parameters based on soil type/land use.
- Climatological PE used



# Soil Moisture Computation (continued)



- Uses hourly QPE rainfall from radar/gage computations
- Model run in a hourly time step.
- Upper layer computed from upper zone tension and free water values
- Lower layer from lower zone tension, primary and supplementary values.



# Soil Moisture Computation (continued)



- Hopefully more useful than total soil moisture as it is broken up into upper/lower soil moisture.
- Upper zones more useful for agricultural use
- Lower zone useful for hydrologic/ground water use





# Soil Moisture Graphic Computation



- Climate monthly statistics uses 16 years of model data from 1996-2011.
- Graphics produced daily around noon.
- Produced via the NWS Community Hydrologic Prediction System (CHPS)



# Main page



NWS - Mozilla Firefox <@ls2-tua>

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

http://www.srh.noaa.gov/abrfc/

Most Visited Red Hat Red Hat Magazine Red Hat Network Red Hat Support

NWS

National Weather Service River Forecast Center  
Arkansas-Red Basin

weather.gov

ABRFC Home News Organization Search for: NWS All NOAA Go

Top News of the Day

- Water Supply forecasts for May are now available!
- Flood Stage Changes on the Washita River at Pauls Valley Coming May 10, 2012
- Find out how to become a CoCoRaHS Rainfall, Hail and Snow Observer

No Flooding Occurring or Forecast

Observed/Forecast River Conditions Observed Precipitation Forecast Precipitation Gridded Flash Flood Guidance

National Weather Service - ABRFC - Tulsa OK  
Issued at 07:00 AM CDT Tue May 08, 2012

Legend:  
No Current Data Available (white square)  
Below Action Stage (green square)  
Action Stage (yellow square)  
Minor Flooding (orange square)  
Moderate Flooding (red square)  
Major Flooding (purple square)

Current Max Forecast

The Arkansas-Red Basin River Forecast Center is one of thirteen River Forecast Centers in the National Weather Service.

Providing Hydrologic Services for

Done

http://www.srh.noaa.gov/abrfc

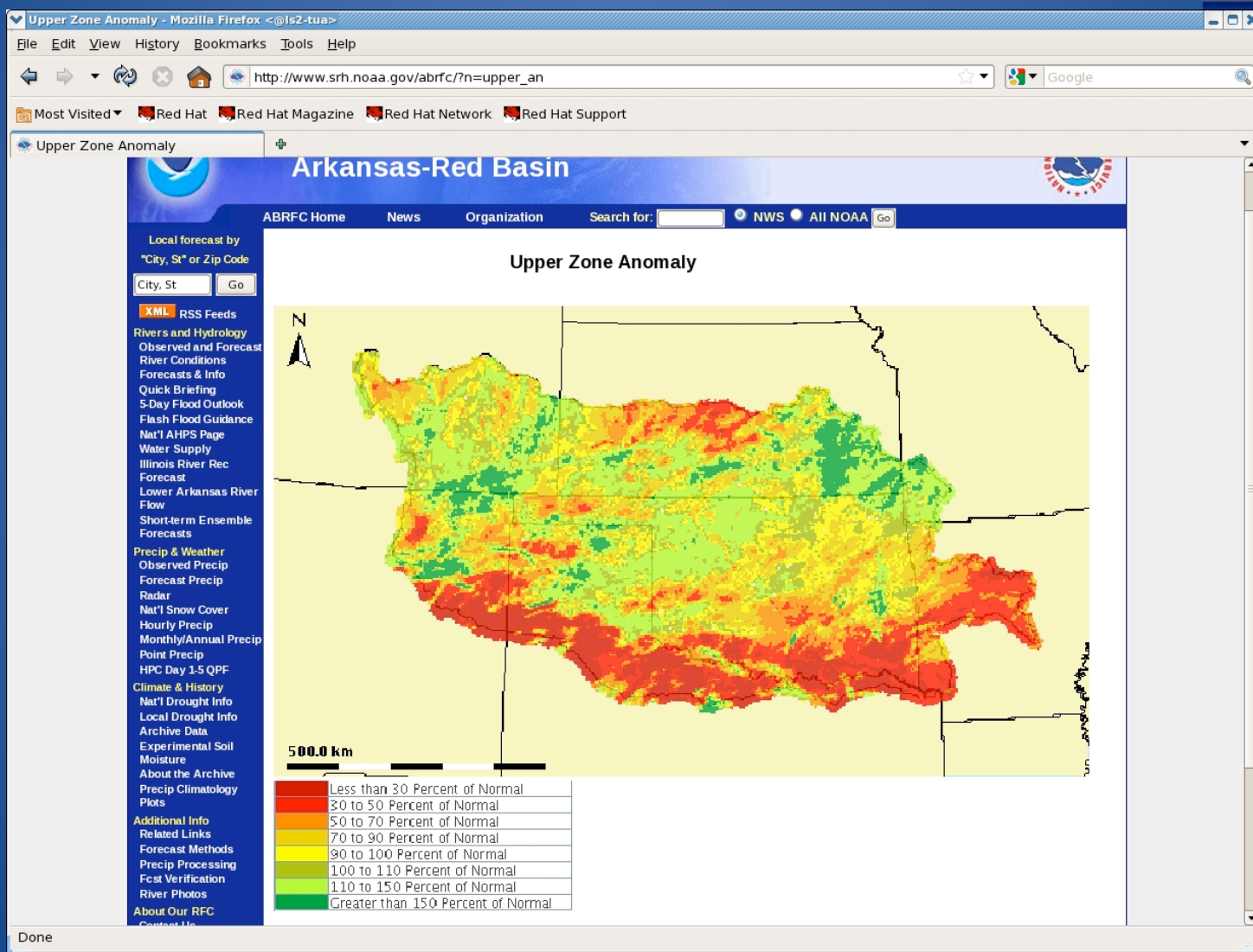


# Upper Zone Anomaly

- Sensitive to short term rainfall.
- Can change drastically from day to day, especially during large rainfall events.
- Representative of the first few inches of soil.



# Upper Zone Anomaly





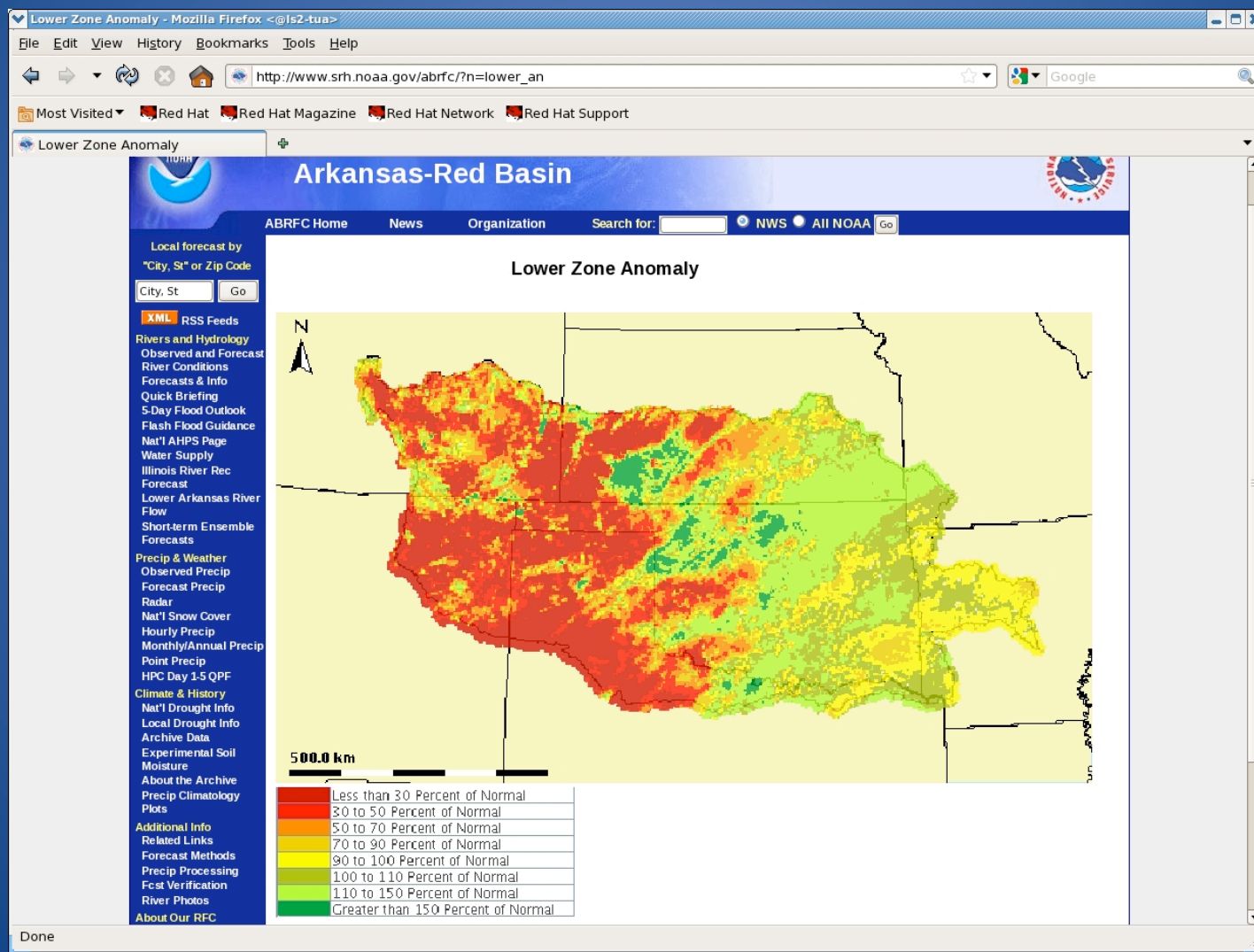


# Lower Zone Anomaly

- Changes very slowly over time.
- Not extremely sensitive to rainfall events.
- Takes multiple rainfall events to drastically change values.
- Extends several feet down the soil column.



# Lower Zone Anomaly





# Anomaly notes

- Anomaly values more sensitive across climatologically dry areas.
- Any inputs on scale?



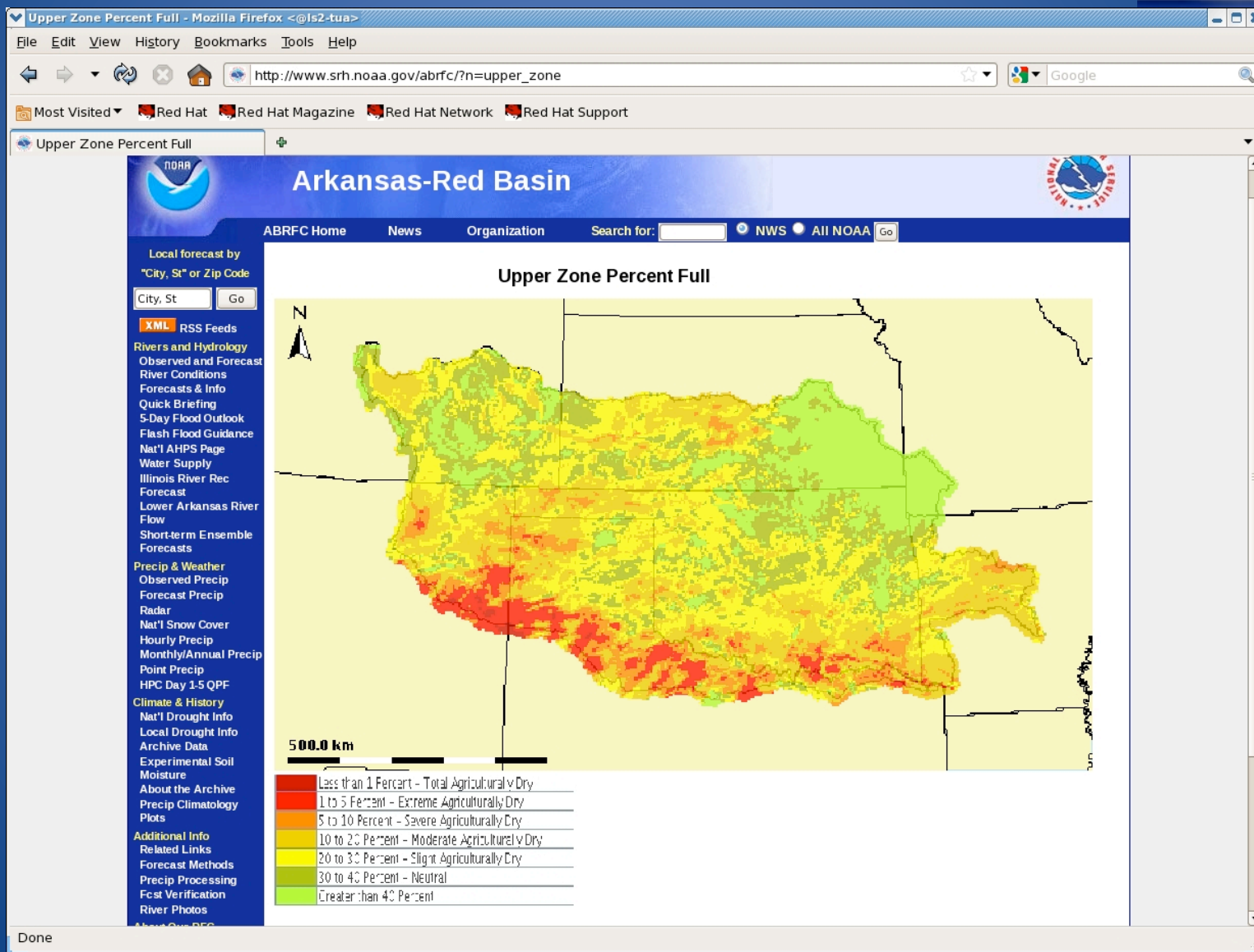
# Upper Zone Moisture Values

- Percent fullness of 2 upper zone model parameter contents versus parameter maximums.
- Input needed on scale of legend/ categorical values





# Upper Zone Moisture Values



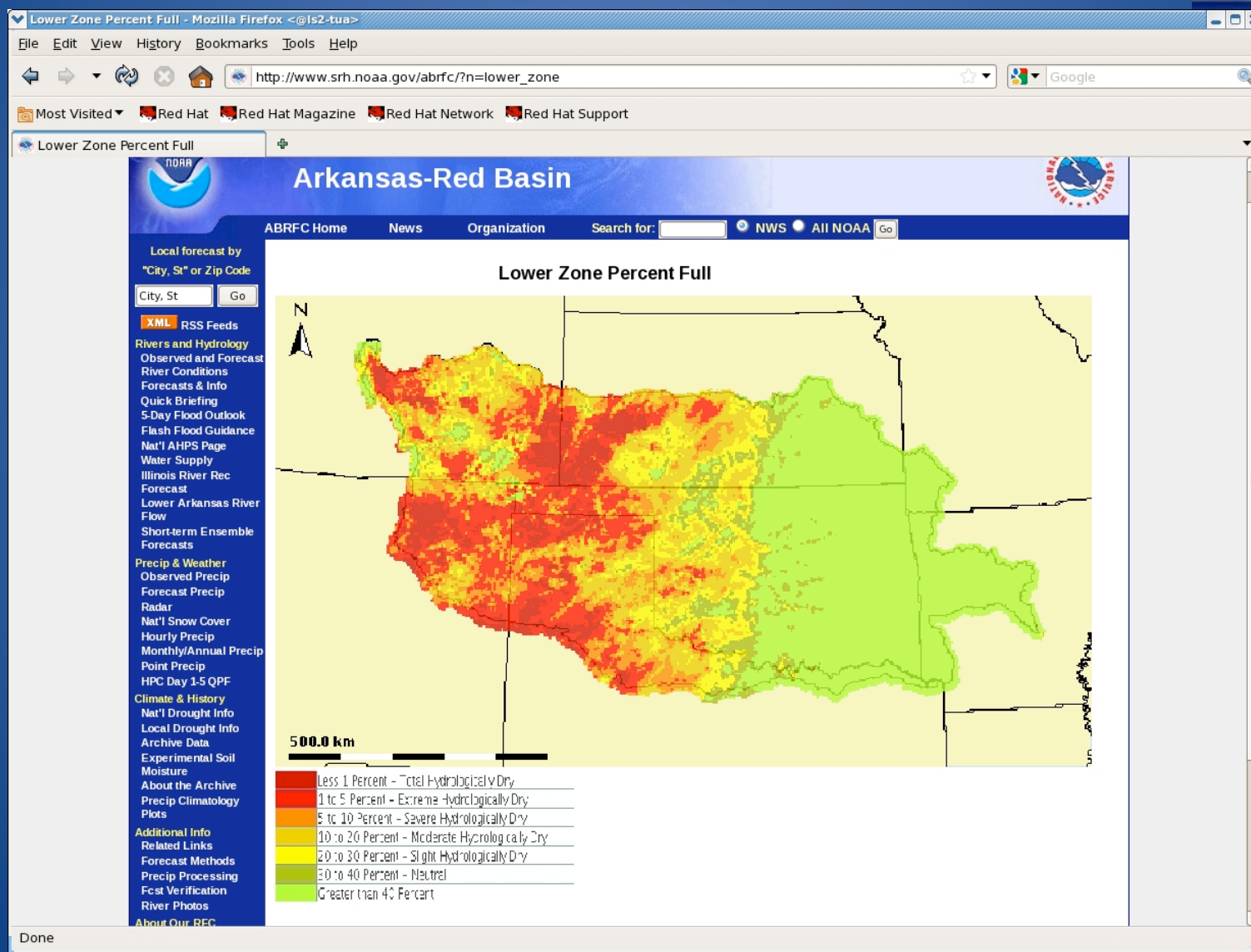


# Lower Zone Moisture Values

- Percent fullness of 3 lower zone model parameter contents versus parameter maximums.
- Input needed on scale of legend/categorical values

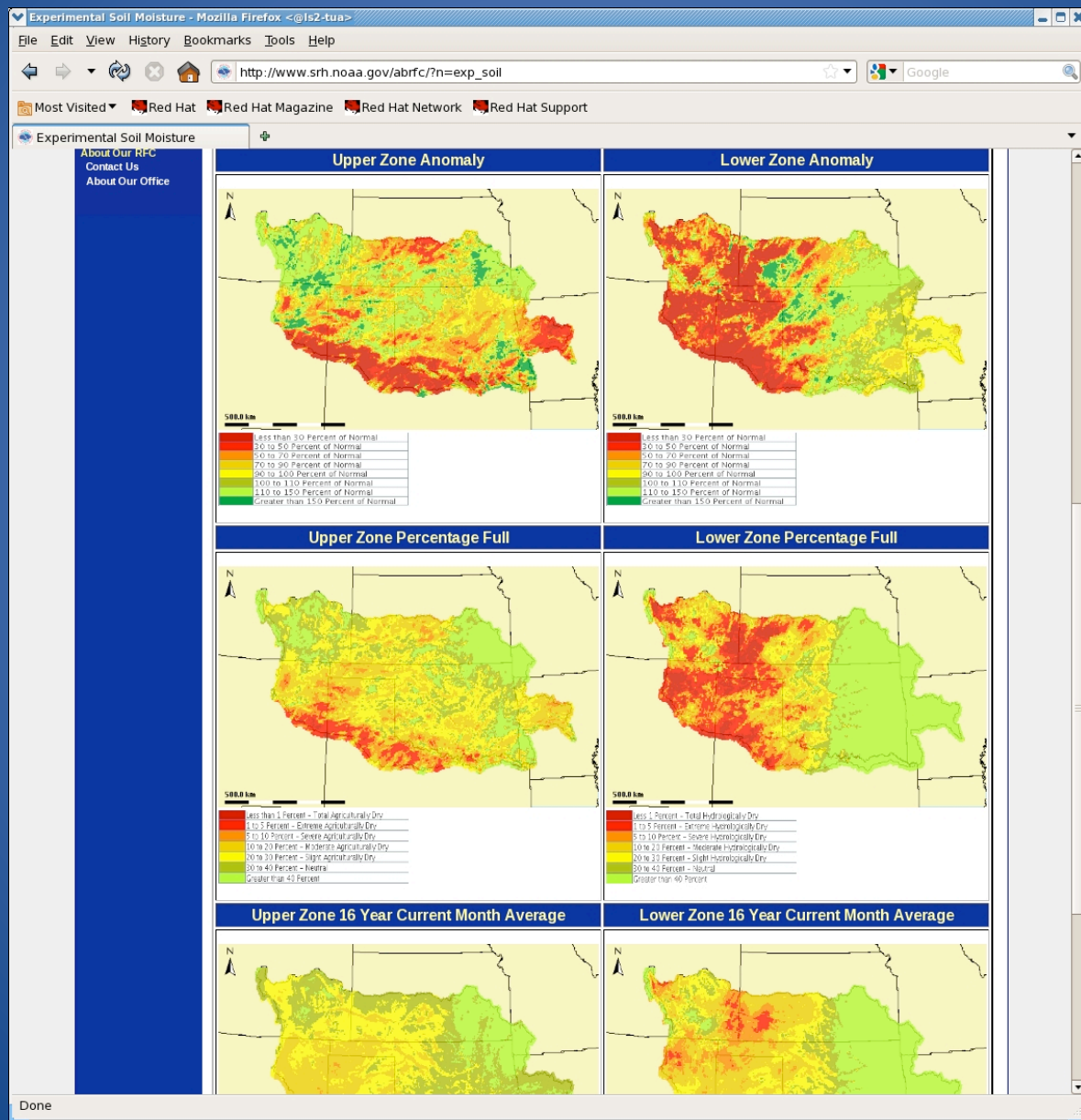


# Lower Zone Moisture Values





# Webpage







QUESTIONS?

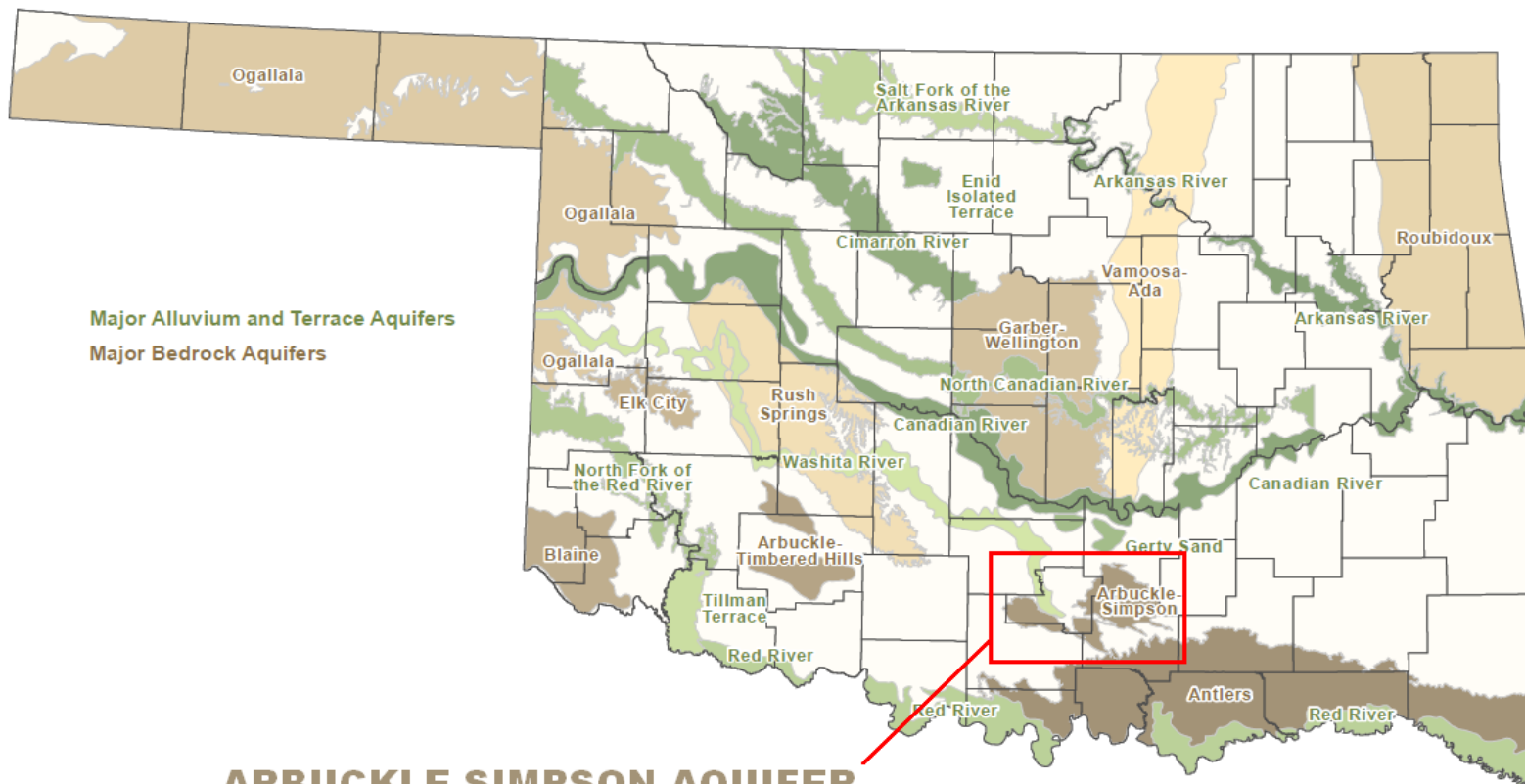


# Arbuckle Simpson Aquifer

Daune Smith, Choctaw & Chickasaw Nations

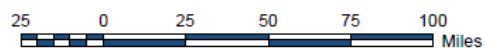


# Major Groundwater Aquifers of Oklahoma



Major Alluvium and Terrace Aquifers  
Major Bedrock Aquifers

**ARBUCKLE-SIMPSON AQUIFER**





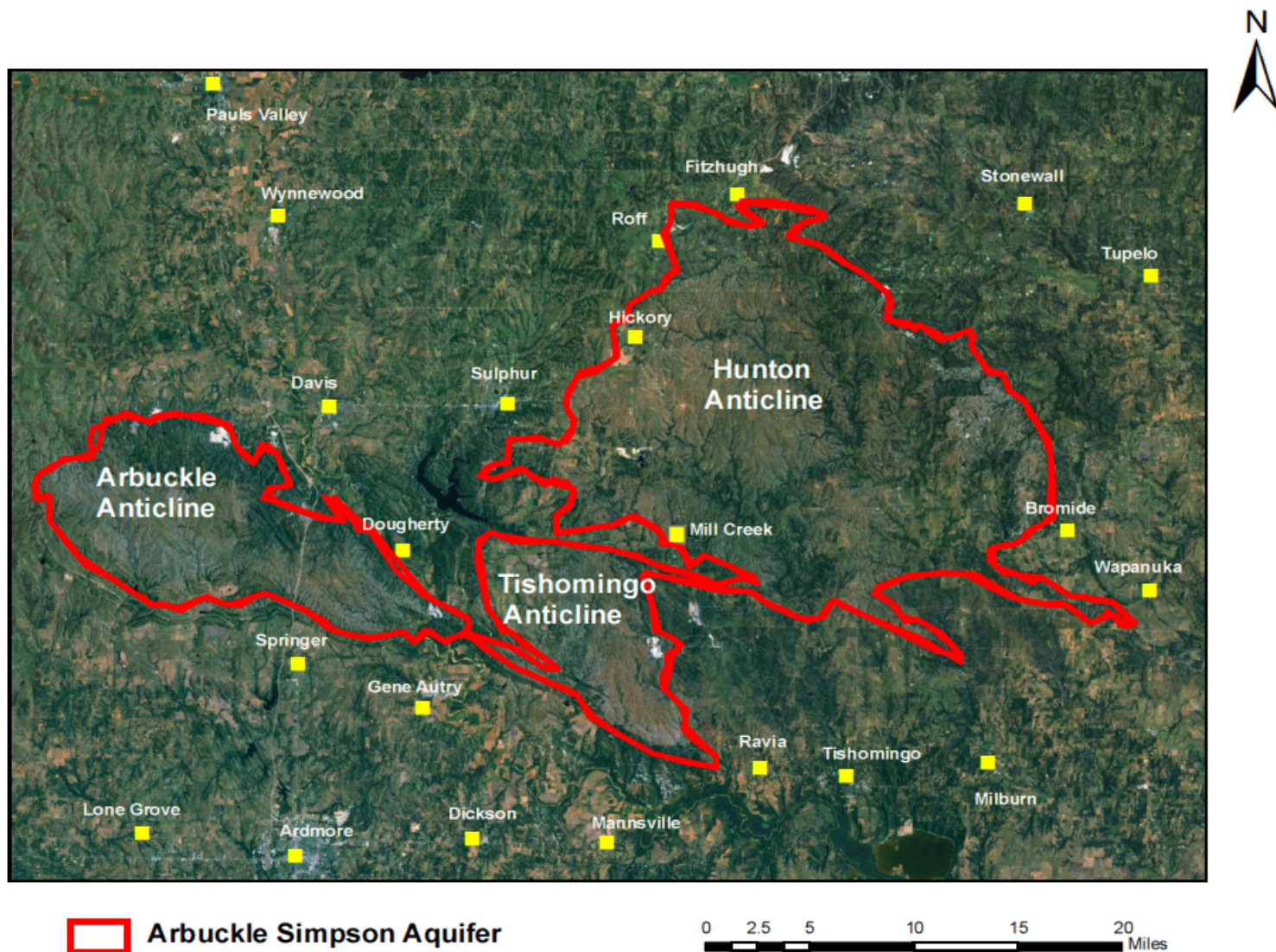
# The Arbuckle Simpson Aquifer is the only Sole Source aquifer in Oklahoma

(the aquifer supplies at least 50% of the drinking water in the area and users have no feasible alternative source)





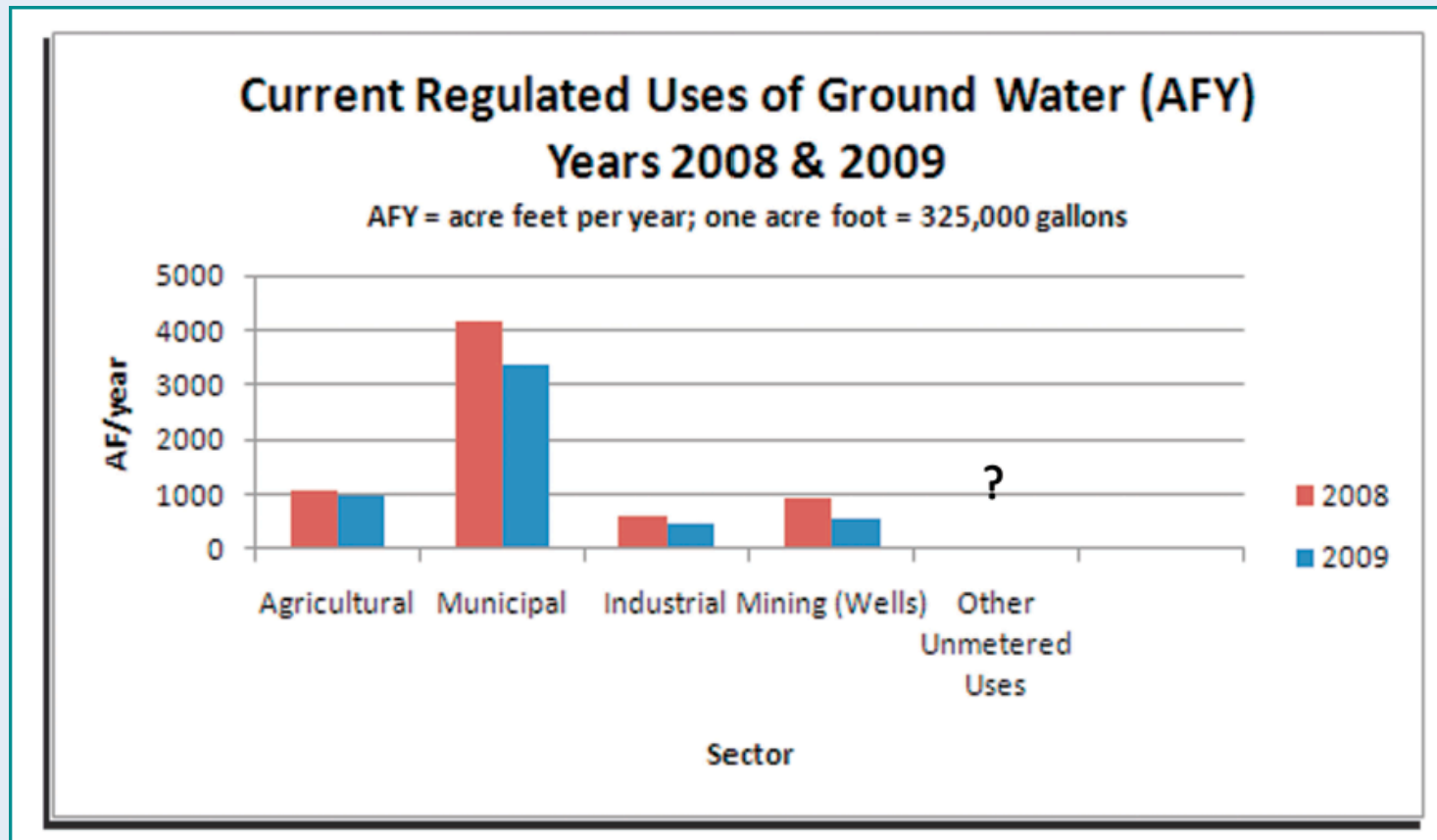
# Arbuckle Simpson Aquifer and Surrounding Communities



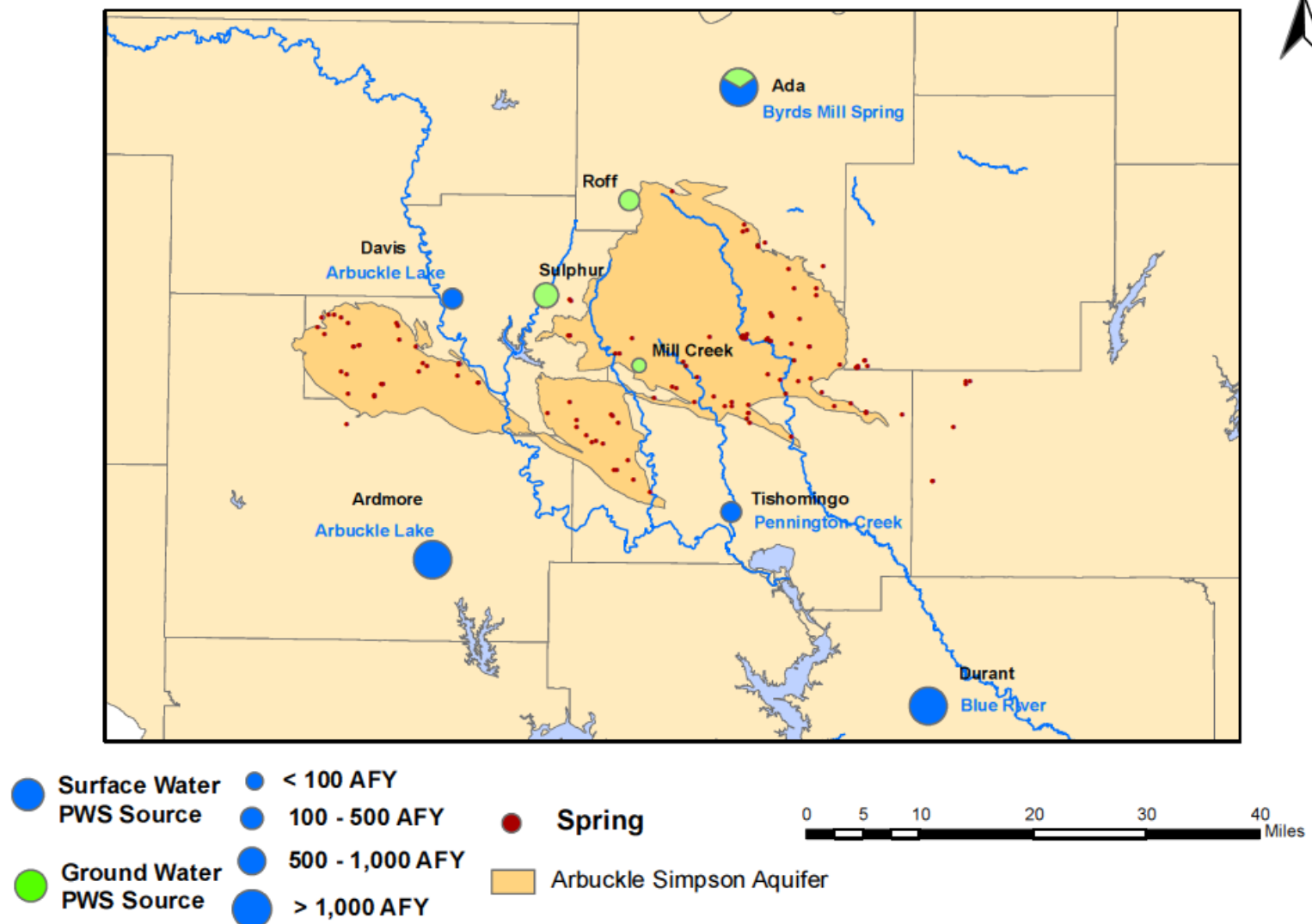
# Arbuckle Simpson Groundwater Uses

OWRB study: approx. 25,000-30,000 AFY sustainably available

Primary use is municipal, **as appropriate for a sole source aquifer**—approx. 5,000 AFY



## Municipalities that Depend on the Arbuckle Simpson Aquifer as their Source of Public Water Supply





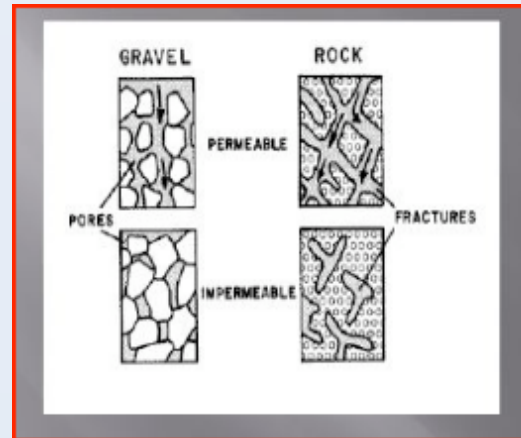
# Water is Important in this Region for Recreation & Tourism

Blue River state wildlife management area, Chickasaw National Recreation Area, Tishomingo NWR, Fish Hatchery, Turner Falls, The Nature Conservancy's Pontotoc Ridge Preserve and others—the hunting, fishing, hiking, wildlife observation, inn and hospitality services collectively draw millions of visitors each year, making a substantial contribution to the local economy.



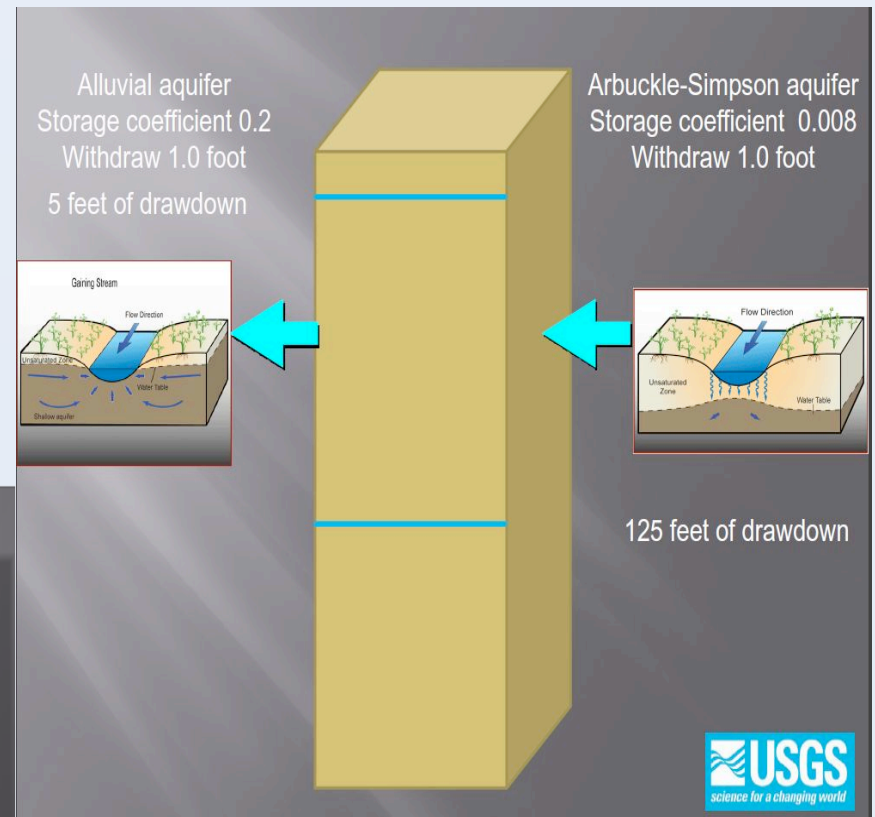
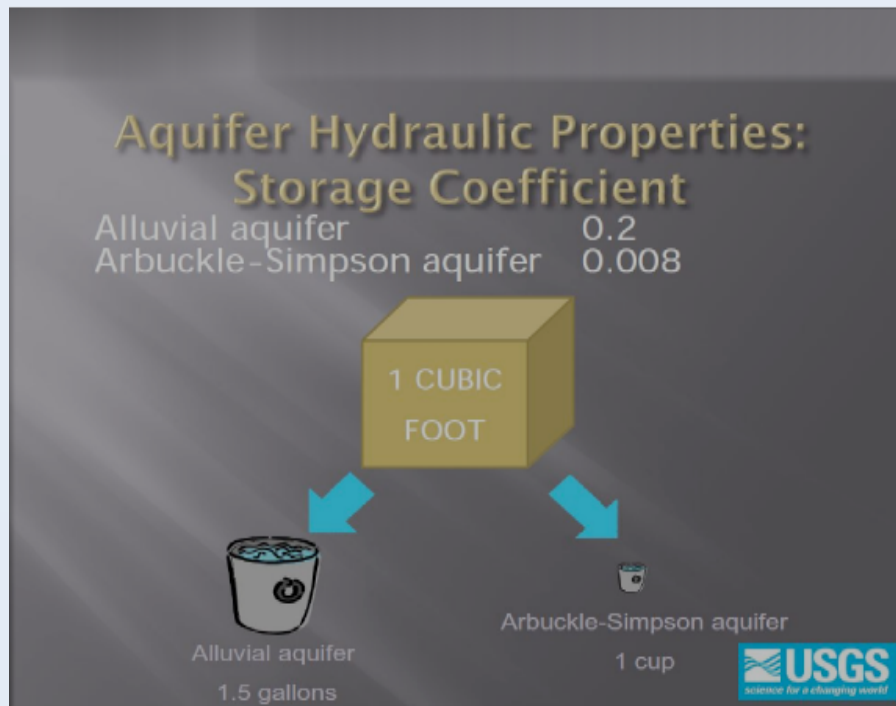


## Not All Aquifers are the Same



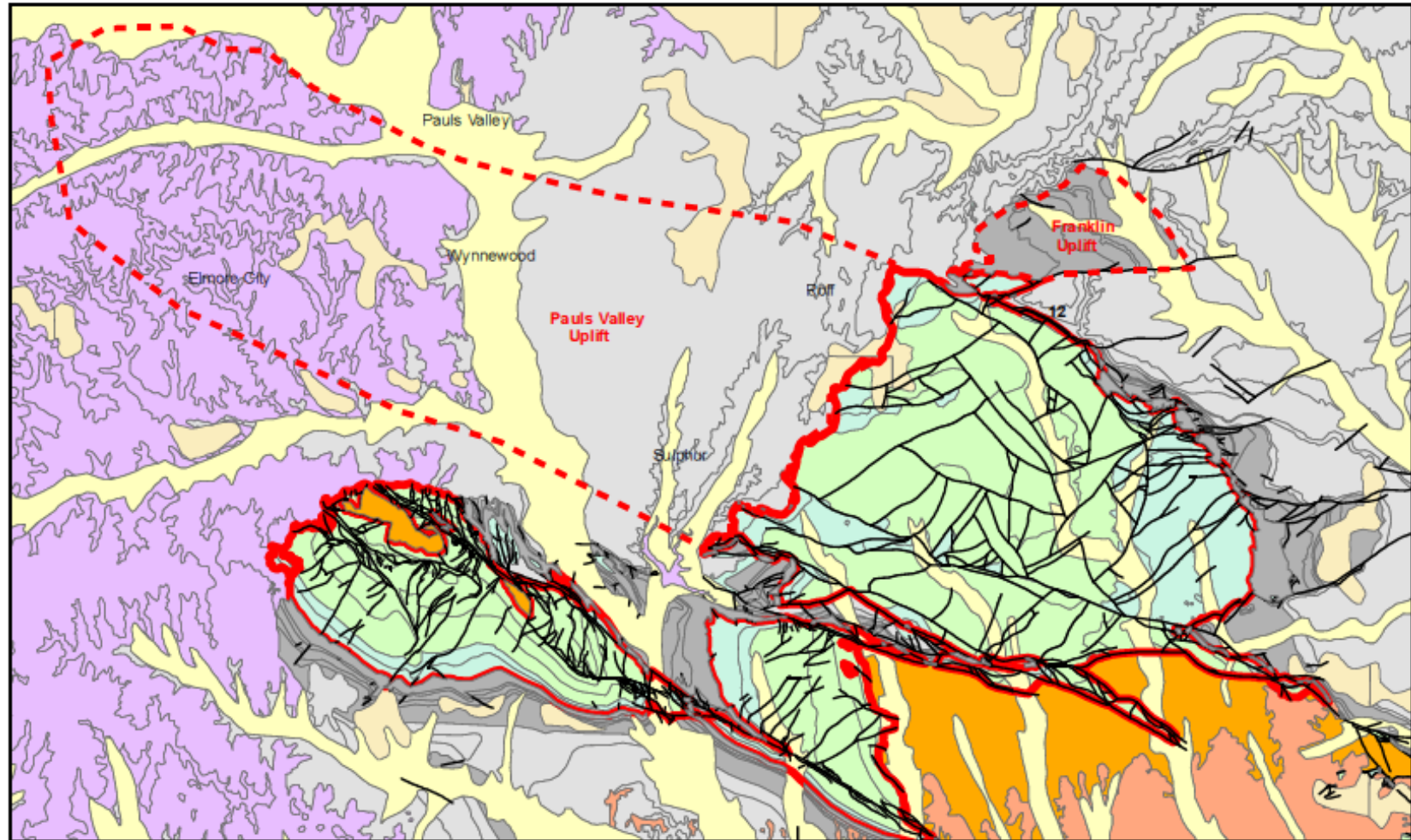
The unique features of the Arbuckle Simpson Aquifer (ASA) make it less absorbent and more fragile than more typical “alluvial” aquifers that are less rocky.

Very different effects  
of removing 1.0 ft  
surface water  
from aquifer.



The ASA absorbs far  
less rainwater than  
an alluvial aquifer.

# Geology of the Arbuckle Simpson Aquifer and Surrounding Area



## Legend

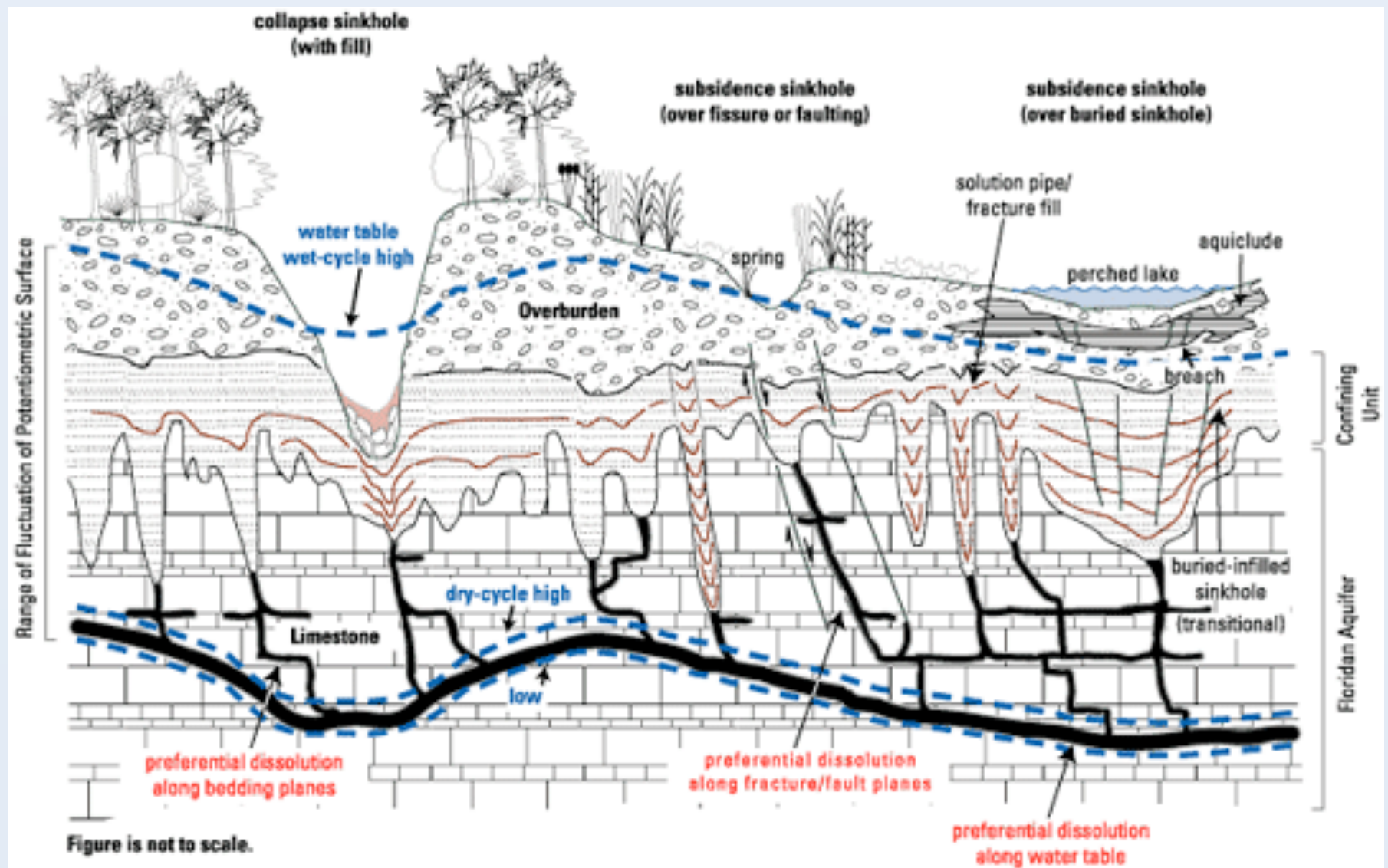
- cities
- Fault Line
- lakes

## Legend

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| ■ Alluvium         | ■ Silurian, Devonian, Mississippian Fm |
| ■ Cretaceous Fm    | ■ Simpson Formation                    |
| ■ Permian Fm       | ■ Arbuckle Formation                   |
| ■ Pennsylvanian Fm | ■ Granite                              |

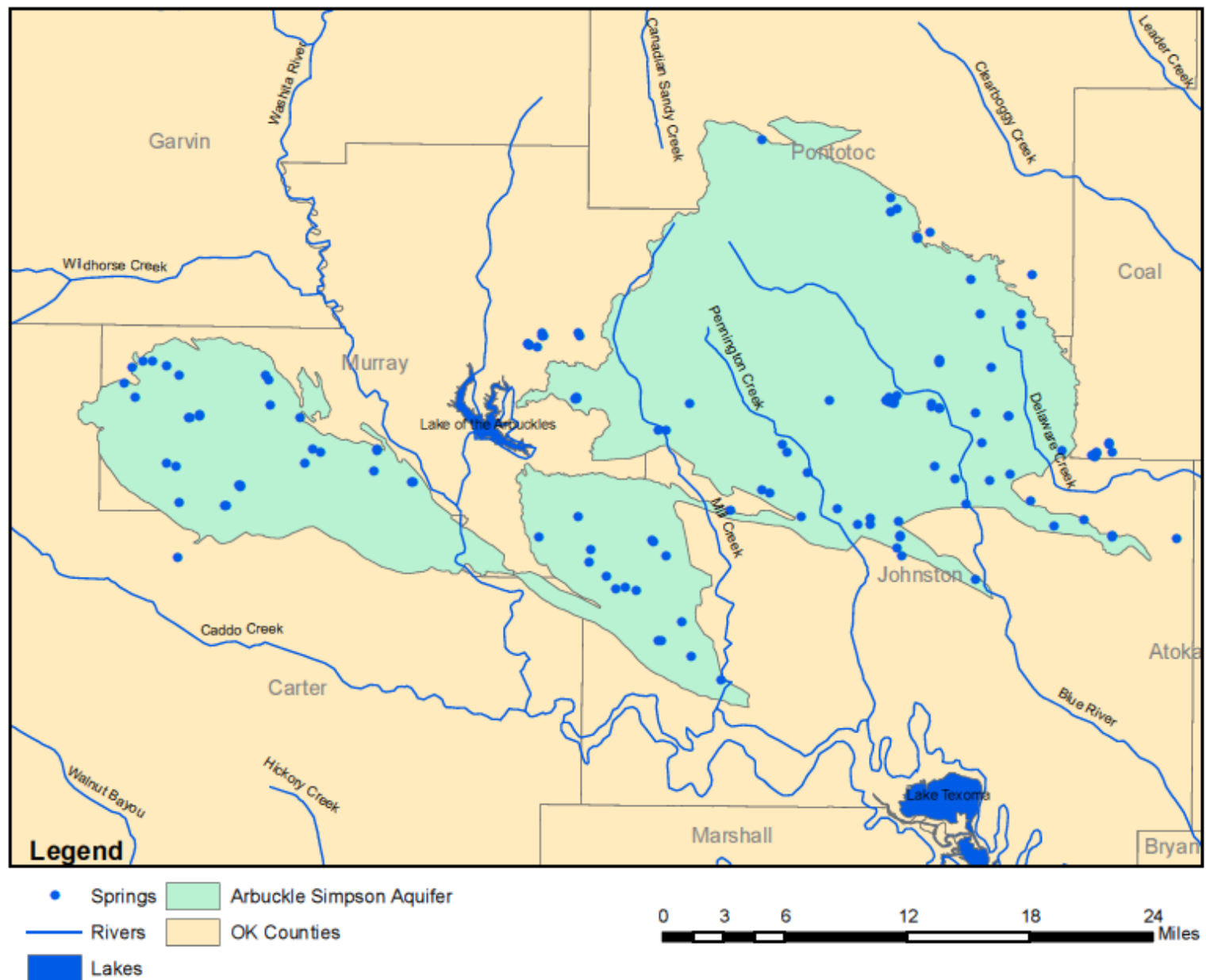
0 2.5 5 10 15 20 Miles

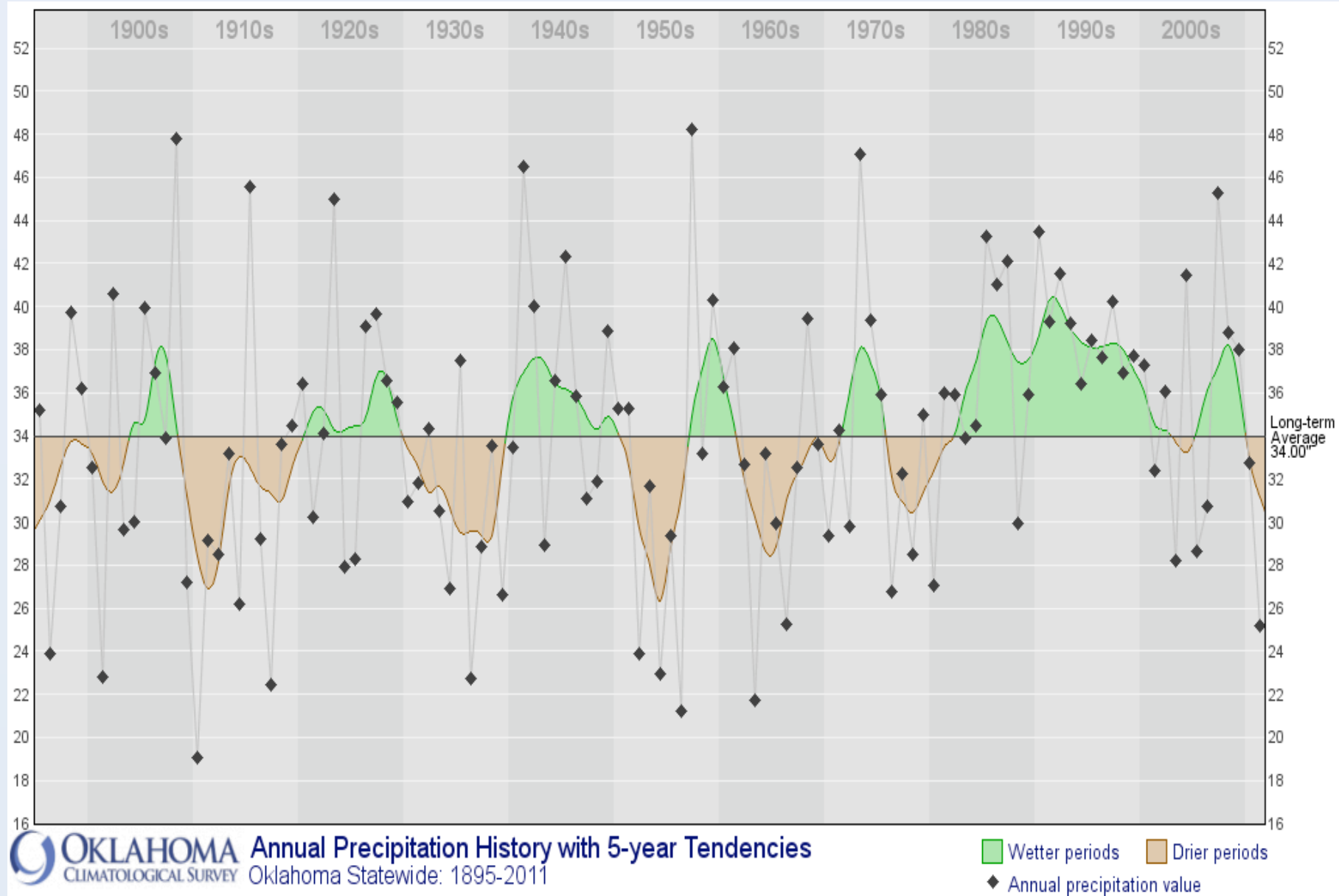
## Typical Cross-section of Karst Topography



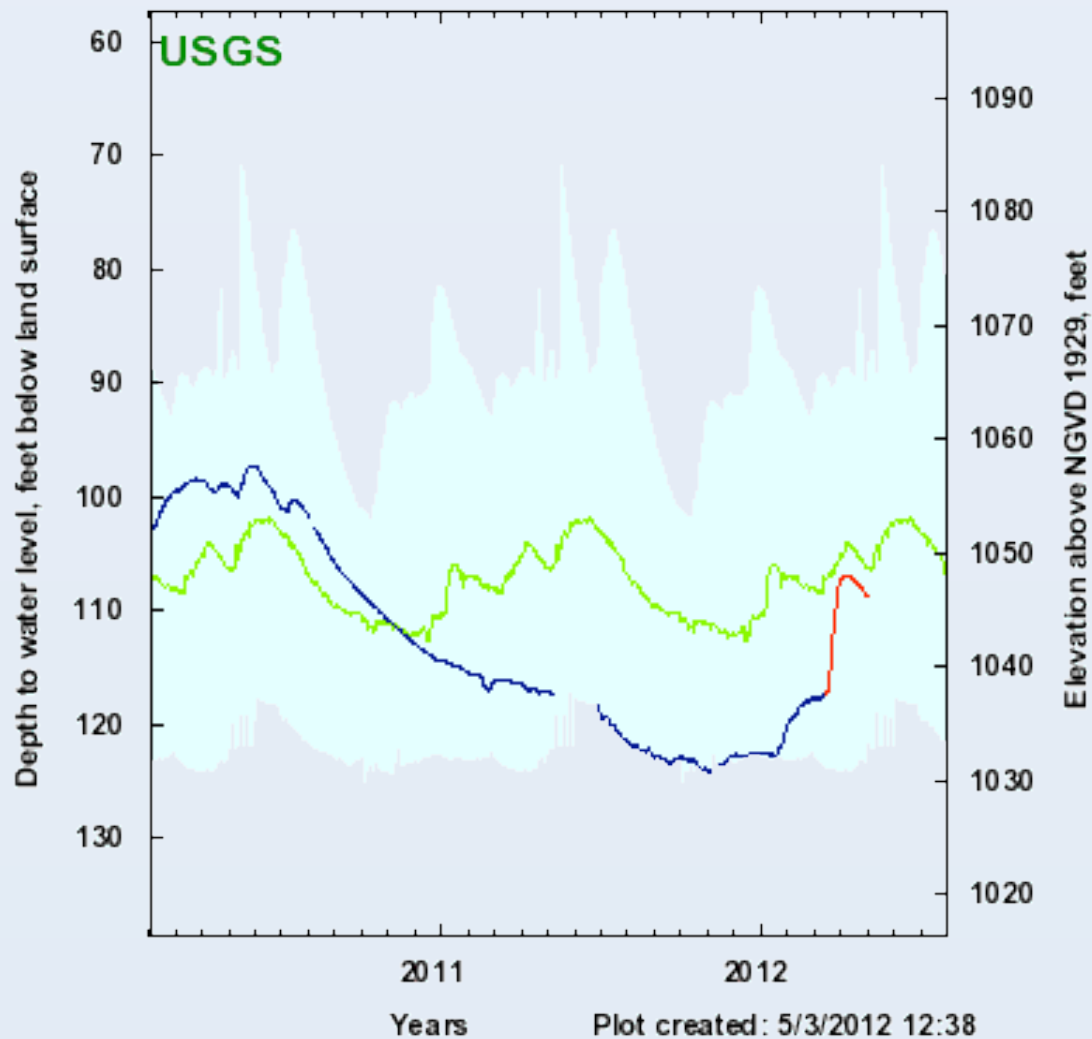


## Springs & Rivers that Flow from the Arb-Simp Aquifer





343457096404501 -01N-06E-04 CAD 1 Fittstown GW well

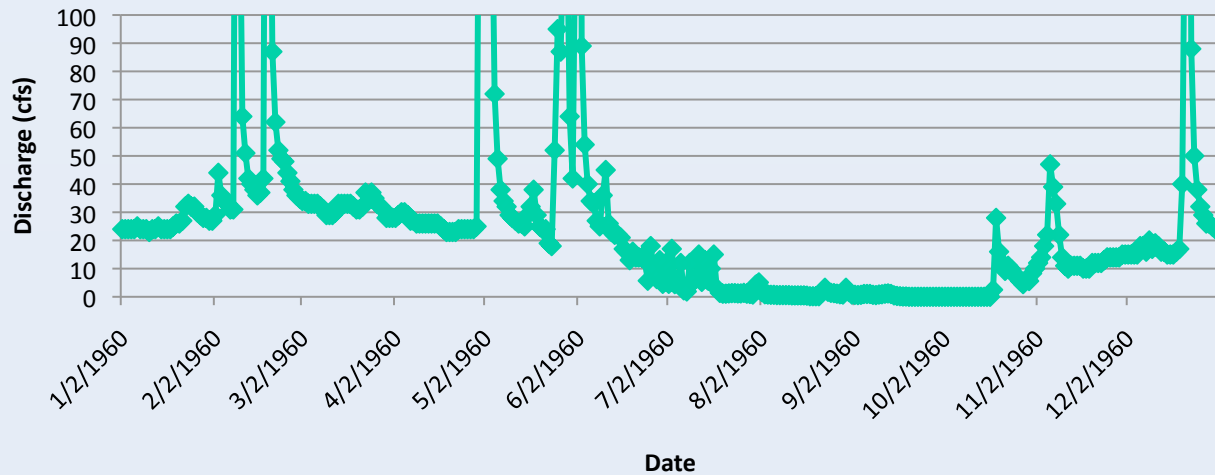


Water levels in the aquifer were at historic low levels during the drought of 2011, but have rebounded to near normal levels with recent rains.

A low water level in the aquifer means less flow at the springs and therefore, less base flow in the streams.

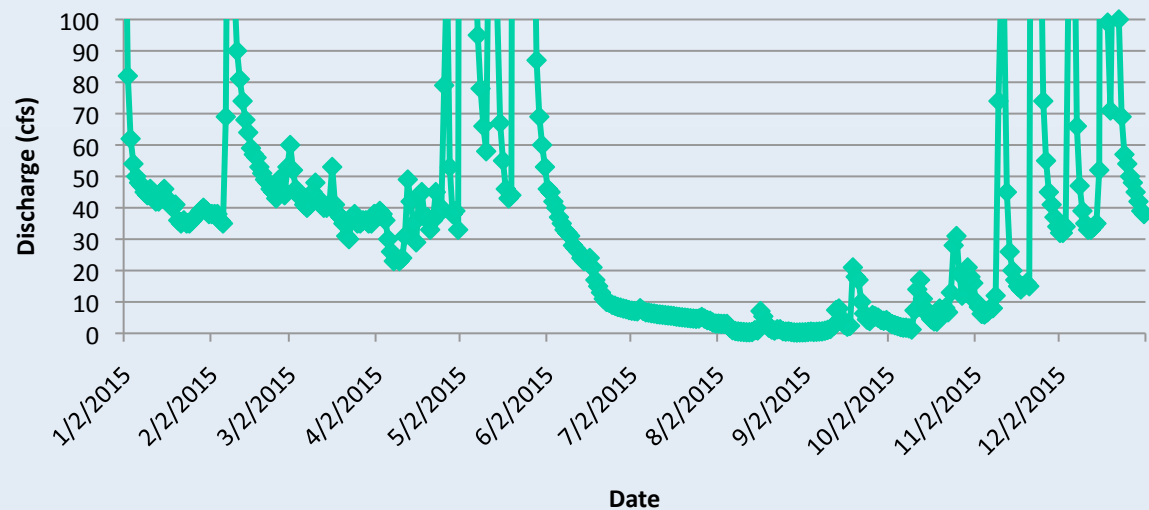
Approved Daily Data	Provisional Daily Data	Historical Daily Median	Range of	Historical Daily Min & Max
------------------------	---------------------------	----------------------------	----------	-------------------------------

## Discharge on the Blue River at Blue during 1956



During the worst drought on record in 1956, the Blue River at Blue had 28 consecutive days with no recorded flow.

## Discharge on the Blue River at Blue during 2011



The flow rate on the Blue River at Blue dropped below 1 cfs for 25 days during the worst portion of the 2011 drought.



# Chickasaw National Recreation Area

The Chickasaw National Recreation Area (CNRA) posted signs warning people to stay out of stagnant water pools when the spring-fed creeks in the park stopped flowing during the 2011 drought.



# Resources

- U.S. Drought Portal
  - <http://www.drought.gov>
- Southern Plains Information & Past Webinars
  - [http://www.drought.gov/portal/server.pt/community/southern\\_plains](http://www.drought.gov/portal/server.pt/community/southern_plains)
- Drought Impact Reporter
  - <http://droughtreporter.unl.edu/>
- State Climatologists
  - <http://www.stateclimate.org/>
- National Drought Mitigation Center
  - <http://drought.unl.edu/>
- Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program (SCIPP)
  - <http://www.southernclimate.org/>
  - Youtube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/SCIPP01>
- Climate Assessment for the Southwest (CLIMAS)
  - <http://www.climas.arizona.edu/>



We are now on facebook!  
Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program

Is drought properly classified in your region? If not, let us know!

- Drought Impact Reporter
- Contact your State Climatologist
- E-mail the DM Authors:  
[droughtmonitor@unl.edu](mailto:droughtmonitor@unl.edu)